

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 9th May 2024

Our ref: 2024-428

Reply contact name:

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th April 2024 regarding nitrous oxide.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by Team Performance at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1) How many canisters of nitrous oxide were seized by your police force in each of the last ten financial years (defined 1st April–31st March). So from and including 2014/15 to 2023/24? If this breaches the cost limit – can I please request 2018/19 to 2023/24 inclusive?

2) For each of those years, please can you specify where the canisters were seized and how many canisters were seized at each location? (For example: street, school, college, fields, entertainment venues such as pubs or clubs)

3) For the relevant years stated in question 1 (under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016) how many arrests were made for the production, sale or importation of nitrous oxide? Where possible, can you reveal whether any arrests led to charges? And how many resulted in custodial sentences or fines?

4) Since the change in the law on the 8th November 2023 - how many arrests have been made for being in (unlawful) possession of nitrous oxide where its intended use is to be inhaled to get high? How many were charged? Please can you tell me what sanction they faced: fine / community punishment / caution?

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

5) Since the 8th November 2023 – how many arrests were there on suspicion of supplying or producing nitrous oxide canisters? How many were charged? Please can you tell me what sanction they faced?

Our response:

1 & 2) Our systems do not hold this data prior to 2018. Please see the data available below:

Year	Location					Grand Total
	Car park	Garden	Home address	School	Shop	
2018			26			26
2019			47			47
2020			2			2
2021			41			41
2022	2		158			160
2023	1	1	86	6	6	100
2024			27			27
Grand Total	3	1	387	6	6	403

3) 3 arrests, 0 charges, 0 custodial sentences or fines

4) 0 (zero)

5) 0 (zero)

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker