



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 17th June 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/548

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30th May 2024 concerning officers assaulted whilst on duty.

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.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. The number of police officers who were assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.
2. The number of police officers who suffered serious injuries after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.
3. The number of police officers who suffered minor injuries after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.
4. The number of police officers who required sick leave after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request (namely questions 2-4) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because in order to determine the number of officers who may have suffered serious and/or minor injuries as a result of being assaulted on duty, as well as the number of those officers who required sick leave after being assaulted whilst on duty, this would require us to manually peruse through all sickness records that fall under "injured on duty" as well as crime reports that fall under assaults on emergency workers for the time frame requested, in order to

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establish this information. This would involve us having to look through approximately 1,133 records of which would take us well over the allocated time frame we have to furnish your request within.

Therefore, under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

1. The number of police officers who were assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.

Year/Month	Number of Assaults on Officers
2021	225
Jan	12
Feb	8
Mar	21
Apr	21
May	24
Jun	16
Jul	13
Aug	26
Sep	20
Oct	17
Nov	23
Dec	24
2022	321
Jan	26
Feb	22
Mar	38
Apr	26
May	10
Jun	34

Jul	31
Aug	30
Sep	22
Oct	20
Nov	31
Dec	31
2023	393
Jan	33
Feb	20
Mar	36
Apr	26
May	47
Jun	34
Jul	33
Aug	31
Sep	36
Oct	32
Nov	34
Dec	31
2024	194
Jan	25
Feb	47
Mar	40
Apr	34
May	48
Grand Total	1133

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

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4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review, they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk