



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 4th July 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/516

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th May 2024 concerning the cost and number of tasers we hold. My apologies for the delayed response.

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 after having consulted our Finance department – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1a) For the financial year 2023 – 2024, please provide the total number of taser guns purchased by the force, and separately, the total number of taser cartridges purchased.

1b) How much money in GBP did the force spend on purchasing tasers, Conducted Energy Devices or equivalent, and taser cartridges in the financial year 2023 – 2024? Please separate this data in to the total spent on taser guns, and the total spent on cartridges, if possible please.

2a) For the financial year 2022 – 2023, please provide the total number of taser guns purchased by the force, and separately, the total number of taser cartridges purchased.

2b) How much money in GBP did the force spend on purchasing tasers, Conducted Energy Devices or equivalent, and taser cartridges in the financial year 2022 – 2023? Please separate this data in to the total spent on taser guns, and the total spent on cartridges, if possible please.

3a) For the financial year 2021 – 2022, please provide the total number of taser guns purchased by the force, and separately, the total number of taser cartridges purchased.

3b) How much money in GBP did the force spend on purchasing tasers, Conducted Energy Devices or equivalent, and taser cartridges in the financial year 2021 – 2022?

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Please separate this data in to the total spent on taser guns, and the total spent on cartridges, if possible please.

For clarity, I would like to know how many tasers you bought in the relevant FY, how many cartridges you bought, and the total cost of these for each FY specified.

Our response:

Please see the table below detailing the number of taser guns and cartridges purchased by the force for the years requested (questions 1a, 2a and 3a).

	Tasers		Cartridges
	Number	Cost	Number
23/24	0	0	3,750
22/23	0	0	2,550
21/22	0	0	2,200

Please note, that the total number provided above of cartridges refer to cartridges used in both a training and operational capacity.

We last purchased taser devices back in Feb 2021 so the financial year prior to what has been requested. Therefore, the cost for taser devices for each year is 'nil'.

Wiltshire Police are unable to provide the total costs of taser gun cartridges purchased (questions 1b, 2b and 3b) as this is exempt by virtue of:

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

To provide the number of items purchased together with the total costs – this would allow for a unit price per cartridge to be calculated and this is deemed to be commercially sensitive, and could have an impact for our current supplier if this went out for retender, giving the requestor an advantage.

Section 43 is a prejudice-based exemption which means that the public authority must demonstrate that it is satisfied that to release the information, this would damage commercial interests of another. It is also a qualified exemption which means that the public authority must consider the public interesting in withholding this information.

Overall Harm:

Disclosure of the total cost of taser cartridges purchased along with the total number of them that have been purchased is considered to be commercially sensitive information, as divulging this information is likely to give competitors an advantage in future tendering processes which would be unfair to the provider of the product. This would undermine the integrity and effectiveness of the tendering process as it may dissuade organisations from submitting tenders or encourage those who do to compete on price rather than quality.

Public Interest Test:

Factors favouring disclosure –

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There is a strong public interest in ensuring that public money is spent correctly and disclosing this information would adhere to the basic principles of openness and transparency.

Factors favouring non-disclosure –

To disclose the total cost of the taser cartridges purchased along with the total number of them bought in the last few years, this would give competitors a commercial advantage by making available the cost per item. This would offer an unfair advantage to other companies and diminish the ability of Wiltshire Police to achieve the best value for money – ultimately undermining the procurement process. Wiltshire Police take steps to ensure that the products and services it purchases are the best available in terms of quality and cost effectiveness. Therefore, disclosure of this information would be detrimental in this regard.

Balance Test:

Whilst Wiltshire Police recognise the importance of remaining open and transparent with public, this must be weighed against the potential to undermine tendering processes and the best products in terms of quality and effectiveness.

It is therefore, our opinion that balance lies in favour of non-disclosure at this time.

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 43(2) – Commercial Interests

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.

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