

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 19th July 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 584

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th June 2024 concerning Hit & Run Incidents.

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 – having consulted our Justice Traffic Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

How many hit and run incidents has the force recorded in the last three years [between April 6-April 5 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/23]?

- a) Of those, how many resulted in casualties and what was the severity of the casualty?
- b) Of those, how many incidents where the driver was uninsured?
- c) Of those, how many resulted in a prosecution or other police course of action? Can you specify which?

Our response:

The number of hit-and-run incidents recorded by Wiltshire Polcie is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Details for Hit-and-Run incidents where injuries have occurred are held on a separate system within our Justice Traffic Department and most of the data around those is accessible via searches of the system.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Details regarding Non-Injury Hit-and-Run incidents are stored differently and details around them are not so easily accessible. In reality, to identify even the totals of non-injury collisions or hit-and-runs would necessitate a manual perusal of many thousands of manual records.

Under the circumstances - and given the sheer volume of records involved for the time period you require - 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.

It should be noted that even for the 319 Hit-and-Runs where injuries have occurred during these time periods, we do not hold fields on our system(s) in which we record whether the driver concerned was insured and whether or not prosecution or other Police action followed. Again, this would only be ascertained by reviewing each and every report manually and even looking solely at this reduced number - and allowing a very conservative 5 minutes per record to do so – this in itself would exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply.

Please also 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 :-

Question a

The number of Hit-and-un incidents where Injuries have occurred were as follows :-

Period	Casualty Severity			Total
	Slight	Serious	Fatal	
06/04/2021 - 05/04/2022	124	14	0	138
06/04/2022 - 05/04/2023	89	10	1	100
06/04/2023 - 30/11/2023	77	4	0	81

Note :-

- Our Justice Traffic Team are currently dealing with a large backlog of information which is currently in the process of being added to our systems.
- They have confirmed that the data held on our systems for Injury Hit-and-Runs is only available up to and including the end of November 2023. Data since that time is currently not available due to the backlog already mentioned.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny
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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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.

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