



Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 3rd July 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/589

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th June 2024 concerning dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour.

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:

- How many dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour were put in place in 2019?
- How many anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in 2019?
- How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in 2019?

- How many dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour were put in place in 2020?
- How many anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in 2020?
- How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in 2020?

- How many dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour were put in place in 2021?
- How many anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in 2021?
- How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in 2021?

- How many dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour were put in place in 2022?
- How many anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in 2022?
- How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in 2022?

- How many dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour were put in place in 2023?
- How many anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in 2023?
- How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in 2023?

- How many dispersal orders for anti-social behaviour have been put in place so far in 2024?
- How many anti-social behaviour incidents have been reported so far in 2024?
- How many arrests for anti-social behaviour have been made so far in 2024?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Whilst there is an occurrence type within our systems for Section 35 Dispersal Orders that we can search on, using this occurrence type to retrieve the entirety of the data held regarding dispersal orders is not an accurate way of retrieving this information. This is because the application of this occurrence type is unfortunately not used accurately and is therefore subject to human error. As a result, the only way in which we would be able to obtain this data accurately, would be to manually peruse through all anti-social behaviour reports made since 2019 to see how many dispersal orders may have been in put in place.

There is additional work being done to record dispersal orders so it can be easily captured in the future but currently, accurate historic data is not available.

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 –

How many anti-social behaviour incidents were reported in 2019 - 2024?

Year	Number of ASB incidents reported
2019	1604
2020	1535
2021	1697
2022	1922
2023	2117
2024	768
Grand Total	9643

Proud to serve and protect our communities

How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in 2019 - 2024?

Arrival Month & Year	Number of Unique Individuals	Number of Arrests
Total 2019	131	131
Total 2020	79	80
Total 2021	56	60
Total 2022	66	68
Total 2023	70	73
Total 2024	23	23

Caveats:

- Dates searched on: 1st January 2019 – 31st May 2024.
- In relation to the second table above, the number of arrests means the same individual may have been arrested multiple times and that is why the number of unique individuals arrested have also been supplied alongside this.

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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Proud to serve and protect our communities

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.

Proud to serve and protect our communities

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