

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 16th July 2024

Our Ref FOI 2024-633

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd July 2024, concerning criminal damage & trespassing incidents mentioning "crop circle".

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 the Business Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote:

For the calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024 (up to the date of this email; please provide totals for each year individually), could you tell me how many incidents of

A) Criminal damage (Home Office crime classification codes 58A and 58D), and

B) Trespassing (I couldn't find the code for this; I hope you can assist?) Were recorded by your police force in which the following keyword appeared in the MO/investigation summary field:

- "Crop circle"

For the 10 most recent incidents identified, could you please reproduce the MOs/investigation summary field, redacting any elements that would otherwise cause the information to be exempt?

Clarification received 12.07.2024

'crop circles' for both please. I understand that this is criminal damage because the grain is flattened to a height below the minimum at which combine harvesters can access it, meaning farmers suffer financial losses in reduced harvest. And the trespassing comes not only when the individuals enter the field to make the circle, but also later on when unrelated parties enter the field to see the artwork for themselves.

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Our response:

Please note:

- ❖ The date range used was 1st January 2022 to 30th June 2024.
- ❖ The figures include both crimes and non-crime incidents.
- ❖ The data for part A (criminal damage) has been obtained by completing a summary search for the term "crop circle". The results of these types of searches may be unreliable and inaccurate as only the summary field of the report is searched. If these terms are contained elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require a manual search of each crime within the specified timeframe to deem if they were relevant to your request.

Part A - Criminal Damage

Reported Year	Other criminal damage, other (under £5000)
2022	2
2023	1
Total	3

Reported Month Year	Offence Description	Occ Summary
May-2022	Other criminal damage, other (under £5000)	Overnight, an unknown suspect has used boards to form a 100m crop circle in a field of barley.
Jul-2022	Other criminal damage, other (under £5000)	Male suspect has trampled on IP's crops which are ready for harvest. The male walked across the field to see a crop circle causing further damage. There are areas of the field that cannot be harvested due to the damage.
Jun-2023	Other criminal damage, other (under £5000)	Unknown suspect(s) has made a crop circle in a malting barley field, causing damage.

Part B - Trespassing

There are no specific offence descriptions for trespassing, it is usually treated as a civil matter.

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

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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



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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 Fol 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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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