



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

Date: 30th July 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/693

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25th July 2024 concerning stop and searches.

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 Business Intelligence team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding 'more thorough searches' and 'more thorough searches involving exposure of intimate parts'. PACE Code A, referred to in my FOI application questions below, is found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-a-2023/pace-code-a-2023-accessible>

Please provide information for each of the following periods, as specified in the tables in the Appendix: 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. For the sake of clarity, the below questions refer to pre-arrest searches, hence the references to PACE Code A, wherever the location of the search (on the street, in a police van, in the police station).

In your police force area:

1. What was the total number of stop and searches **for all reasons**, where a **more thorough search** occurred (sometimes referred to as a 'partial strip search') (PACE code A 2023, para. 3.6)? PACE Code A defines a 'more thorough search' at para. 3.6: "a more thorough search (e.g. by requiring a person to take off a T-shirt) [...] Any search involving the removal of **more than** an outer coat, jacket, gloves, headgear or footwear, or any other item concealing identity". Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 1 table, which can be found in the Appendix.

2. What was the total number of stop and searches **for all reasons**, where a **more thorough search occurred** (PACE code A 3.6) and it was a **positive search**? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 2 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
3. What was the total number of stop and searches **for all reasons**, where a search involved **exposure of intimate parts of the body** (sometimes referred to as a 'full strip search') (PACE Code A 2023 3.7)? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 3 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
4. What was the total number of stop and searches **for all reasons**, where a search involved **exposure of intimate parts of the body** (PACE Code A 3.7) and where it was a **positive search**? By positive search, we mean either "any outcome other than 'no further action'" or "item found, either linked or unlinked to search reason", depending on what definition is used in your database and is capable of being searched. If a different definition is used to the two provided here, please clarify what definition is being used when providing the data. Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 4 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
5. What was the total number of stop and searches **for drugs** (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a **more thorough search occurred** (PACE code A 3.6)? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 5 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
6. What was the total number of stop and searches **for drugs** (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a **more thorough search occurred** (PACE code A 3.6) and **where drugs were found**? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 6 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
7. What was the total number of stop and searches **for drugs** (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a search involved **exposure of intimate parts of the body** (PACE Code A 3.7)? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 7 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
8. What was the total number of stop and searches **for drugs** (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a search involved exposure of intimate parts of the body (PACE Code A 3.7) and **where drugs were found**? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 8 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.
9. When providing the data to answer the above questions, please confirm whether the number of more thorough searches involving exposure of intimate parts is **included** in the total number of more thorough searches. For example, if there were

20 'more thorough searches' in the year X and 8 'more thorough searches involving exposure of intimate parts' in the same year X, please confirm whether those 8 MTSEIP have already been counted in the 20 MTS.

APPENDIX

Question 1:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	
Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 2:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	

Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	
Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 3:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	

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Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 4:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	
Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	

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25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 5

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	
Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 6:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	

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Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	
Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 7:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	

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Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Question 8:

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	
Male	
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	
18 - 24	

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25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

Our response:

1. What was the total number of stop and searches for all reasons, where a more thorough search occurred (sometimes referred to as a 'partial strip search') (PACE code A 2023, para. 3.6)? PACE Code A defines a 'more thorough search' at para. 3.6: "a more thorough search (e.g. by requiring a person to take off a T-shirt) [...] Any search involving the removal of more than an outer coat, jacket, gloves, headgear or footwear, or any other item concealing identity". Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 1 table, which can be found in the Appendix.

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	2
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	1

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	1
Male	1
Other	
Not stated / unknown	1

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	3
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

2. What was the total number of stop and searches for all reasons, where a more thorough search occurred (PACE code A 3.6) and it was a positive search? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 2 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Nil.

3. What was the total number of stop and searches for all reasons, where a search involved exposure of intimate parts of the body (sometimes referred to as a 'full strip search') (PACE Code A 2023 3.7)? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 3 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	36
Black (or Black British)	3
Asian (or Asian British)	3
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	3
Not stated / unknown	6

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	10
Male	41
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	4
18 - 24	27
25 - 29	13
30 and over	7
Not stated / unknown	

4. What was the total number of stop and searches for all reasons, where a search involved exposure of intimate parts of the body (PACE Code A 3.7) and where it was a positive search? By positive search, we mean either “any outcome other than ‘no further action’” or “item found, either linked or unlinked to search reason”, depending on what definition is used in your database and is capable of being searched. If a different definition is used to the two provided here, please clarify what definition is being used when providing the data. Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 4 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	11
Black (or Black British)	1
Asian (or Asian British)	1
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	1
Not stated / unknown	2

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	1
Male	15
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	2
18 - 24	7
25 - 29	5
30 and over	2
Not stated / unknown	

5. What was the total number of stop and searches for drugs (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a more thorough search occurred (PACE code A 3.6)? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 5 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	2
Black (or Black British)	
Asian (or Asian British)	
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	
Not stated / unknown	

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	1
Male	1
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	2
18 - 24	
25 - 29	
30 and over	
Not stated / unknown	

6. What was the total number of stop and searches for drugs (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a more thorough search occurred (PACE code A 3.6) and where drugs were found? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 6 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Nil.

7. What was the total number of stop and searches for drugs (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a search involved exposure of intimate parts of the body (PACE Code A 3.7)? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 7 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	36
Black (or Black British)	3
Asian (or Asian British)	3
Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	3
Not stated / unknown	6

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	10
Male	41
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	4
18 - 24	27
25 - 29	13
30 and over	7
Not stated / unknown	

8. What was the total number of stop and searches for drugs (section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and section 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), where a search involved exposure of intimate parts of the body (PACE Code A 3.7) and where drugs were found? Please provide data sorted by (self-defined) ethnic group, gender, and age. Please provide this information by filling out the Question 8 table below, which can be found in the Appendix.

Ethnicity	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
White	11
Black (or Black British)	1
Asian (or Asian British)	1

Other Ethnic Group	
Mixed	1
Not stated / unknown	2

Gender	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Female	1
Male	15
Other	
Not stated / unknown	

Age	Total in the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024
Under 10	
10 - 17	2
18 - 24	7
25 - 29	5
30 and over	2
Not stated / unknown	

9. When providing the data to answer the above questions, please confirm whether the number of more thorough searches involving exposure of intimate parts is included in the total number of more thorough searches. For example, if there were 20 'more thorough searches' in the year X and 8 'more thorough searches involving exposure of intimate parts' in the same year X, please confirm whether those 8 MTSEIP have already been counted in the 20 MTS.

Intimate searches are not included in partial strip figures. All intimate searches take place in Custody.

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

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