

# WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXXXX  
By email

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

**Date** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Our Ref** FOI 2024-889

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, concerning recognised installers of Type A alarms.

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:**

I am writing to respectfully request the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Specifically, I am seeking the disclosure of any data or information held by the force that details the organisations and/or individuals recognised by the Chief Constable to install Type A intruder alarm systems within your jurisdiction.

This request pertains to any records, lists, documents, or databases, whether current or historical, that identify those companies or individuals authorised to install and maintain Type A alarm systems which comply with British Standards (such as BS EN 50131 or BS 4737) and are eligible for police response upon alarm activation.

## **Our response:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this request is exempt by virtue of Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement.

## **Section 31(1)(a)(b)**

### **Harm test**

Freedom of Information is considered to be a release to the world as once the information is published the public authority, in this case Wiltshire Police, has no control over what use is made of that information.

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Providing the names of specific companies accredited to install Type A alarms would expose other companies and the buildings / sites they protect and make them more vulnerable to those persons intent on gaining authorised access to them. This is because it may provide an indication that Police response to those areas would potentially be slower. Accordingly, and whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing information that could then be exploited by identifying accredited installers from those who do not install Type A alarm systems could be of use to those who seek to undermine our ability to prevent and detect crime, and more specifically, apprehend those responsible.

### **Factors favouring disclosure**

There is a public interest in transparency when any request is made for Police information. In this instance there is public interest in knowing which installers are Type A alarm systems accredited, which assists the public in sourcing security systems fit for purpose.

### **Factors against disclosure**

The Police only use Type A alarm system installers in accordance with British Standard regulations and as approved by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) and the Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB). Disclosing a list of companies used by the Police exposes other unaccredited companies and the buildings / sites they are employed to protect, vulnerable, meaning those with the necessary intent could specifically target the areas covered by these companies with the hope of a delayed Police response. Any release of information that risks increasing crime and impacting the likelihood of apprehending any person(s) responsible is not in the public interest.

### **Balance test**

Having considered your request, Wiltshire Police accepts that there is a public interest in transparency when any request is made for Police information. The public interest favouring release must however be balanced against any associated risk and/or prejudice that would be caused through disclosure.

Having carefully considered this, I have found that the public release and publication of the names of these companies would be likely to reveal potential security vulnerabilities through a process of elimination. This means that those with the necessary intent could specifically identify and target the areas covered by unaccredited companies that do not install Type A alarm systems with the hope of a delayed Police response. Given this I have found that the release of this information is not in the public interest at this time.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, when refusing to provide 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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement

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



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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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto: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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