

**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: 22nd November 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 975

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 5th November 2024 concerning Traffic Offences.

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 and Business Performance Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote

- 1 How many speeding tickets/fines were issued by your council/constabulary in 2023 and 2024? Following this, which months in each year saw the most cases?
- 2 How many cases of drink driving did you deal with in 2023 and 2024? Following this, which months in each year saw the most cases?
- 3 How many cases of car theft did your constabulary deal with in 2023 and 2024? Following this, which months in each year saw the most cases?
- 4 What was the top cause of car accidents in 2023 and 2024? Following this, which months in each year saw the most cases?
- 5 How many cases of fatalities were caused by not wearing a seatbelt in 2023 and 2024? Following this, which months in each year saw the most cases?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our Response

The information that you are requesting for Q4 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Unless they are injury-related collisions (which are stored differently in our systems), we are not easily able to identify detail around non-injury collisions as this would necessitate a manual perusal of many thousands of manual records in order to ascertain the information you require.

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 also be noted that there is no obligation on an authority to create data where none exists today, simply in order to answer an FOI request.

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 1

During 2023, there were a total of 9,355 speeding tickets issued by Wiltshire Police. The month with the most was November with 1,517 tickets issued.

So far during 2024, Wiltshire Police have issued 10,417 speeding tickets up to and including the end of October. The month with the most so far has been last month (October) with 1,455 tickets issued.

Question 2

2023 629 cases November 2023 had the most with 71 cases

2024 474 cases February 2024 has had the most to date with 56 cases

Data for 2024 is up to and including the end of October.

Question 3

2023 – 561 offences reported Feb with the most – 59 offences reported

2024 - 546 offences reported Mar & Apr with the most – 61 offences reported in each

Data for 2024 is up to and including the end of October.

Question 4

As mentioned earlier, we are only able to provide information on this question relevant to accidents where injuries have occurred.

With regard to those, the most common contributing factor listed for both 2023 and 2024 to date has been "Failed to look properly".

For 2023, February was the month with the most accidents where injuries were incurred. For 2024 to date, it is January (so far).

It should be noted that an Officer can add up to 6 individual contributing factors per accident on to the accident record on our system. Each accident is likely to have more than 1 contributing factor listed and "Failed to look properly" will not have been listed as a contributing factor in all accidents recorded during those years. There are currently 78 different contributing factors that could be assigned to any given accident where injuries have occurred.

Question 5

During 2023 there were 2 fatal accidents (one in January and one in October) where "Not wearing a seatbelt" was listed as a contributing factor. There have been none so far in 2024.

It is important to note that whilst "Not wearing a seatbelt" may have been listed as a contributing factor in those 2 fatal accidents, that does not necessarily mean it was the actual cause of the fatality. That would be open to conjecture and a matter for the coroner to decide – we do not hold coroner information – if you require confirmation of that you would need to submit an FOI request directly to the Wiltshire Coroner's Office.

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 Speeding Tickets for 2024 is only up to and including October 2024.
- They have confirmed that the data held on our systems for Injury Collisions for 2024 is only up to and including the end of June 2024.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request for Q4 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