

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 15/11/2024

Our ref **FOI 2024/979**

Reply contact name is:

Dear *****,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 06/11/2024, concerning firearms licencing.

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, searches were conducted with the firearms licencing team of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Please could you provide me with the following data?

1. The total number of new shotgun and firearm licences granted to an applicant for the first time each year for the last five years.

2. The total number of shotgun and firearm licences that were successfully renewed each year for the last five years.

3. The total number of first-time applicants who had an application for a firearm or shotgun licence refused each year for the last five years.

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4. The total number of applications for the renewal of a firearm or shotgun licence that were refused, each year for the last five years.

I would be grateful if this is able to include data for 2024, year to date, if possible.

Please could you also list data for shotgun licences and firearms licences separately?

Response:

1. The total number of new shotgun and firearm licences granted to an applicant for the first time each year for the last five years.
To produce this date will take more than 18 hours. This a lengthy process as we would have to investigate 2773 individual records and cross examine them for previous applications.
2. The total number of shotgun and firearm licences that were successfully renewed each year for the last five years.
2019 - 20 = 2573
2020 - 21 = 2820
2021 - 22 = 2477
2022 - 23 = 1778
2023 - 24 = 1353
3. The total number of first-time applicants who had an application for a firearm or shotgun licence refused each year for the last five years.
To produce this date will take more than 18 hours. This is a length process as we would have to investigate all individual records who were refused, then cross examine them for previous applications.
4. The total number of applications for the renewal of a firearm or shotgun licence that were refused, each year for the last five years.
2019-20 = 2
2020-21 = 0
2021-22 = 0
2022-23 = 5
2023-24 = 4

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, 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.

Exemption applied:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

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



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.

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