

**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 email

Date: 11th November 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 985

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th November 2024 concerning Anti-Semitic and Anti-Islamophobic Hate Crimes .

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:

- 1) The number of antisemitic offences recorded by your force each month from October 2021 to October 2024 inclusive.
- 2) The number of Islamophobic offences recorded by your force each month from October 2021 to October 2024 inclusive.

Our response:

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

Whilst our crime recording system is fairly sophisticated and holds a number of designated field in which we record specific information (such as victim age, location of offence, suspect name and so on) which can then – theoretically be searched against – we do not have a specific field in which we record whether a Hate Crime has been directed at a particular religion.

Wiltshire Police record Hate Crime against one of 5 specific Hate crime strands, namely :-



Prejudice – Disability
Prejudice – Racial
Prejudice – Religion
Prejudice – Sexual Orientation
Prejudice – Transgender

For the time period you require, Wiltshire Police have recorded almost 2,600 individual Hate Crimes on our system(s).

Our crime recording system(s) does include a field called “Hate Crime Measure” which can be used to record whether a particular crime is “Anti-Jewish” or “Anti-Muslim” for instance, however this field is not mandatory and its use is solely at the discretion of the individual recording the crime. Looking at the content / use of this field, it is clear that crime recorders do not use this field with any form of regularity and that any searches undertaken using this field would produce results which are clearly incorrect and unrepresentative. Wiltshire Police would never place information into the public domain knowing that the information was inaccurate.

Similarly, whilst we record the Victim Self-Defined Ethnicity on our crime recording systems, again, this field is not mandatory and sometimes – when asked – people decide they do not wish to disclose that information. In addition, whilst a victim of a Hate Crime may be a Muslim, it does not automatically mean that the motivating factor is necessarily Anti-Islamaphobia. For the purposes of answering this FOI request properly, the Self-Defined Ethnicity field should also not be used as doing so could put information into the public domain which we know to be inaccurate.

The ascertaining of the information you require would only be possible by locating and physically reading each and every crime log (and requisite additional paperwork such as statements and/or interviews etc) to try and determine the actual sentiment or reason for each specific Hate Crime that has been reported.

Given the number of Hate Crimes involved, under the circumstances 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.

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.

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



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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