

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 27/12/2024

Our ref **FOI 2024/ 1104**

Reply contact name is:

Dear *****,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 16/12/2024, concerning Drones, UAVs and Unidentified Aircraft.

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 specialist operations support 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 with Response:

Between the 15th of November and the 15th of December 2024, how many reports were received and logged by your Police Force concerning the use or sightings of Drones, UAVs and Unidentified Aircraft?

1

Please could you provide details, date, time, location, and, if possible, a copy of any log entries relating to sightings of Drones, UAVs, and unidentified aircraft and the outcome of any police enquiries between the above dates.

(Please see exemption)

During the last 3 months of 2024, how many prosecutions and investigations have been undertaken by your police force into the use, sightings or reports of unidentified UAVs or drones or unidentified aircraft and the outcome of such investigations and prosecutions?

28 drone related offences

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Does your police force provide any form of education or liaison with civilian drone operators, such as a drone safety course?

No

What training is provided to your police officers and staff in dealing with reports of drone or UAV use and potential offences or guidance? Could you please provide a copy of the information provided to your officers?

Input is given to officers on the Use of Drones by Wiltshire Police. Access/information to Drone offences is given through internal systems.

Does your force provide any specialist advice or information to the public and business community regarding drone mitigation? If so, please provide details.

No

Exemption for Q2:

Your request for information has been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested as it is exempt by virtue of Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement.

Section 31 is a prejudice based, qualified exemption and therefore requires a harm test and public interest test to be conducted

Evidence of harm

To disclose this information would undermine the core principles of policing which are to prevent and detect crime. By releasing this information, it would inform those who wish to cause harm to the police and public of our capabilities to respond to attacks. In addition, the knowledge could result in a loss of confidence in the police as potential threats to the public would be identified which may be seen as a failing by the police.

For Disclosure

To disclose the information would hold the police force accountable and show the public that the police force is being open and transparent. It will give the public valuable knowledge to allow them to take precautions in protecting themselves and their families and it may lead to intelligence being given to the police which could prevent crimes or offences from occurring.

Against Disclosure.

Disclosing this information could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and compromise law enforcement. The disclosure of this information could compromise any tactical and operational Police response and enable any nefarious actors to effectively

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plan any attacks in the UK as they would have information around our capability and capacity to respond.

Trust in the Police service would be lost which effectively would lead to vigilantism and an increase in crime, whilst victims may not be forthcoming in reporting crimes which will hinder how effectively the Police service manage their resources

Balancing

The police service will not divulge any information that will result in the safety of an individual to be at risk, or lead to the prevention and detection of crime being undermined.

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both the public and the integrity of police investigations and operations. Therefore the balance lies in favour of non-disclosure of the information.

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 31\(1\)\(a\)\(b\) – Law Enforcement.](#)

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 Fol 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

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/>