

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 10/12/2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: **FOI 2024/ 915 Internal Review**

Reply contact name is:

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/11/2024 concerning an internal review into meter points of energy management.

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:

Original request:

Please share the NHH, HH, Gas and Specialist Gas/Liquid meter points of Energy Management. As per my understanding, whether there is no contract for energy management, the meter points should be available.

Response:

On reviewing your original Freedom of Information request, the response provided and your request for an Internal Review, I uphold the original response provided to you. I also believe that another exemption is applicable.

The information that you are requesting is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

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

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice-based exemption and therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, along with the public interest favouring and against disclosure.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Harm test

Disclosing information into the public domain would open the Force to vulnerabilities and prejudice our ability to prevent and detect crime, in turn affecting the Force's ability to protect the community. Wiltshire police could be subject to harm through individuals using the locations of these points to immobilise them and associated infrastructure, which could in turn cause harm to the wider public as Wiltshire police's ability to uphold the core principles of policing would be compromised.

Factors favouring disclosure

Placing this information into the public domain would lead to an increased public awareness which in turn would lead to a higher level of trust and more information being supplied by the public. Disclosure would also show the Force as being as open and transparent with the public as possible.

Factors against disclosure

Providing the exact locations of the Gas and Liquid energy meter point would be damaging to the Force's operational security and functionality by providing a great advantage those wishing to cause harm. By putting the Force at risk of harm, this would put individuals at risk and impact on Police resources leading to an increase in crime.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in transparency and openness between the Force and the public, there is a stronger interest in ensuring the public are protected from the threat of criminals, and that the enforcement of the law and the prevention and detection of crime is upheld. To disclose information which is likely to assist offenders would seriously undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

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.

Exemptions applied:

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

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

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/>