

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 28th January 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-036

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th January 2025, concerning RTCs including motorcycles.

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, research was conducted by Justice Traffic at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. The total number of RTCs involving motorcycles in your police force area for the past five years, broken down by year
2. The total number of motorcyclist fatalities resulting from RTCs in your police force area for the past five years, broken down by year
3. The total number of RTCs for your police force area for the past five years, broken down by year
4. The number of serious injuries sustained by motorcyclists in RTCs for your police force area for the past five years, broken down by year
5. Any available data on the time of day, day of the week, and location (urban/rural) of these RTCs involving motorcycles

Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

The information you are requesting, specifically in regard to question 5, is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. In order to retrieve the information that you have requested, we would need to manually review each motorcycle RTC report and within the time frame that you have requested, there are 727 total reports that we would need to review.

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. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note:

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.

Forces may use different recording systems, therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you to refine your request to a more manageable level. If you were to refine the time frame of your request, the retrieval of this information may be achievable.

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 can provide you with is documented below:

	1. NO OF RTCS INVOLVING M/CYCLES	2. M/CYCLIST FATALS	3. TOTAL INJURY RTCS OVERALL	4. M/CYCLIST SERIOUS
2020	92	6	1054	21
2021	153	4	1253	48
2022	174	5	1380	55
2023	164	2	1353	52
2024(up until 31/10)	144	5	1045	43

Please note, we currently have a backlog of data inputting and therefore we are only able to provide 2024 data up to 31st October at this time.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker