



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 22nd January 2024

Ref: FOI 2025/084

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21st January 2025 concerning Betting Shops and Adult Gaming Centres.

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. A summary of the number of betting shops within your jurisdiction and the corresponding number of police callouts/incidents associated with these establishments between 21st January 2024 and 21st January 2025.
2. The same data (number of premises and police callouts/incidents) for adult gaming centres over the same time period.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are fairly sophisticated and we have a number of unique individual fields in which we record specific details about a crime or incident (such as the date, the location, the suspects name, etc), those fields are limited in number and their use is often sporadic as many are non-mandatory.

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Whilst our crime recording system does contain a separate field in which it is possible to record the Building Type (eg School, Betting Shop, etc), however it needs to be noted that this particular field is not a mandatory one for the person recording details of the crime to populate.

As such, its' use is sporadic at best, and we cannot reliably use the content of that field as our basis for investigations as we cannot guarantee the quality of the information held under a flag for Betting Shops per-se.

It also needs to be noted that within that field there is not an option of "Adult Gaming Centre" or similar which anyone could select even if they wanted to.

We would never place information into the public domain (as this FOI response will be) if the data was knowingly inaccurate, so every crime record would need to be checked to ensure the validity of our response.

In any typical year, Wiltshire Police record something in the region of 40,000 individual crimes. To ascertain the information you require, it would be necessary to review each and every one of those crime records to determine whether the location of the crime was either a Licensed Betting Premises or Adult Gaming Centre.

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 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.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant I can confirm that I have spoken to our Licensing Manager who has confirmed that we do not retain a "master list" of Betting Shops or Adult Gaming Centres within Force for all of those premises covered by our area of jurisdiction.

Our response in respect of that part of your request is therefore - No Information Held. It might be possible that the Local Authorities might hold this information – in which case we would recommend that you submit an FOI request for that information to Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council directly.

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

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
Telephone 101

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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.

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

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Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk