

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXX – Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 29th January 2025

Our ref: **FOI 2025/095**

Reply contact name is: XXXXX

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 23rd January 2025 concerning speeding offences and collisions.

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 the Justice Traffic department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I'd like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information act:

1. The total number of speeding offences recorded, broken down by speed zone for 20mph, 30mph, 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph for the years 2023 and 2024
2. The total number of accidents recorded, broken down by speed zone for 20mph, 30mph, 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph for the years 2023 and 2024 If possible, please break the data down by severity (e.g. minor accident, severe injury, etc.)

IF HELD: please can you provide the total number of a) speeding offences and b) accidents which have been recorded on new 20mph roads vs. the number of offences and accidents in the year prior to the speed limit changing.

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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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

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, is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. The information we would need to retrieve for question 2 is broken down between injury and non-injury RTCs. In order to determine the speed zone for non-injury accidents, we would need to manually interrogate each occurrence as this is held on a separate system than injury related accidents. Within this timeframe there are 2,838 non-injury occurrences that would need to be reviewed.

In relation to question 1, this information is stored across two systems; therefore, data may appear duplicated. In order to retrieve the information that you have requested we would need to manually review every speeding offence within the requested timeframe across both systems to ensure accurate results, of which there are in excess of 20,000.

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.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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:

We were able to determine a partial response for Question 2 specifically in relation to injury collisions broken down by speed limits and severity. 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:

2023				
	TOTAL	SLIGHT	SERIOUS	FATAL
20mph	43	38	5	0
30mph	581	514	64	3
40mph	190	164	24	2
50mph	122	91	28	3
60mph	347	263	74	10
70mph	70	59	7	4

2024				
	TOTAL	SLIGHT	SERIOUS	FATAL
20mph	40	37	2	1
30mph	458	400	56	2
40mph	128	111	15	2
50mph	84	66	17	1
60mph	265	184	71	10
70mph	70	68	1	1

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:

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,

XXXXX