



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 28th January 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 110

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27th January 2025 concerning Car Thefts.

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. Please can you provide details of the number of motor vehicles stolen within your Force area for calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024
2. Please can you provide details of the number of motor vehicles subject to the 'unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' within your Force area for calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024
3. Please can you provide the Make and exact Model recorded on your crime recording system in relation to request 1 and 2 within your Force area for calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024
4. Please can you advise how many of these motor vehicles were equipped with keyless entry

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for Questions 3 and 4 of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.



Whilst our crime recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have a number of designated fields in which we record specific information about a crime or incident – which can then theoretically be used to run searches for information on – we do not have a specific field in which we record the kind of item that is stolen in a theft, this also applies for the Make / Model details of vehicles that are stolen.

If held, this information would only be contained either within the occurrence log of the reported offence or on supported additional statements such as victim statements and so on.

To ascertain the information you require for Q3 and Q4 – and it should be noted that we are unlikely to hold definitive records as to whether vehicles stolen had keyless entry systems – it would be necessary to review each and every occurrence log involved and manually create a new record of the information you require.

Given the number of Vehicle Thefts we have recorded for the time periods you require, 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 also 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.

It should also be noted that where no information currently exists, there is no obligation on an Authority to create new information simply to answer an FOI request.

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 am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

Question 1

2022	541
2023	560
2024	627

Question 2

2022	238
2023	99
2024	102

Note – figures in Q2 are included in the totals for Q1

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 3 and 4 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
Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



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Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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