

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: April 4, 2025

Our ref: FOI 2025/088

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22nd January 2025.

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.

You Wrote:

1. Have you engaged the services of the AI geolocation company GeoSpy, or any other AI geolocation company?
2. If so, when did you first engage their services and is the engagement ongoing?
3. If the software has been used, what purposes has it been used for?
4. If the software has been used, are identified locations always independently verified by a human to ensure they match?
5. Has anyone been charged with a crime based wholly or in part on evidence gleaned from GeoSpy or other AI geolocation software? If so, how many people, and what crimes were they charged with?

I am writing to request an internal review as I am not satisfied that there is an actual risk of jeopardising national security, except for with question 3, which I am willing to drop.

The public interest case for disclosure is also significantly understated, in particular as it relates to the public's right to know that a human is checking any AI outputs.

I do not accept the response to my final question. I would consider any arrests that took place after Geospy or similar geolocation tools were used to be relevant to the question I am asking.

Response:

On reviewing your original Freedom of Information request, the response provided to you and your request for an Internal Review, I am able to respond as follows. I believe that a different exemption should have been applied to your request.

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held – namely 'whether Wiltshire Police has or hasn't engaged the services of any AI geolocation company / software' - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2). This is as we would need to essentially search and read each and every investigation (as no time period has been given) to determine whether this information is or is not captured.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I would advise you of a way in which to refine your request. However, due to the nature of this request, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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,

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:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>