

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: March 28, 2025

Our ref: FOI 2025/199

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th February 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.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You Wrote:

I'm seeking copies of any and all of the following documents in relation to your organisation's use of services provided by Palantir Technologies UK Ltd.

A list of current and past contracts, with start and end dates (where applicable)
Any and all Data Processing Arrangements
Any and all Data Sharing Agreements
Any and all Data Protection Impact Assessments

Response:

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that any information is held relevant to this request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) – National Security
Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Overall Harm

Wiltshire Police needs to be alert to requests for certain types of information, and there is a need for consistency when neither confirming nor denying whether information is held in order to protect policing information.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial

Confirming or denying whether the requested information is held would enable the public to have a better understanding of the type of policing tools and tactics employed by Wiltshire Police in carrying out their law enforcement role.

Factors Against Confirming or Denying

To confirm or deny whether any information relating to the use of a particular investigative tool is held would harm the integrity of sensitive policing tactics used to prevent and detect crime and safeguard national security.

Any disclosure under FOI is a release to the public at large. Whilst not questioning the motives of the requester, confirming or denying if a particular policing tool of this type is used by Wiltshire Police as part of an investigative process is different from confirming if, in principle, commercial tools generally are used to assist with searches against information that may be found online.

It is well established that police forces use publicly available data in order to counteract criminal behavior. It has been previously documented in the media that many terrorist incidents have been thwarted due to intelligence gained by these means. However, given the sensitive areas in which tools of this type may be used and Wiltshire Police's role in counter-terror investigations, to disclose if any particular tools are used would allow criminals and other adversaries to focus on evaluating the particular capabilities of a particular tool. With this knowledge it would allow criminal and other adversaries to take steps to counteract a specific tool, be it adjusting how they interact and present themselves to take advantage of any weaknesses or lapses in capability they identify. At a simple level, if a policing tool doesn't search a particular social media site or was unable to identify a certain format of images, and criminals can establish this, they will exploit this position. Wiltshire Police's more sophisticated adversaries may be able to go further and take more proactive measures to undermine the tool and / or its provider.

This detrimental effect is increased if the request is made to several different law enforcement bodies. In addition to the local criminal fraternity now being better informed, those intent on organized crime throughout the UK will be able to 'map' where the use of certain tools are or are not deployed. This can be useful information to those committing crimes. It would have the likelihood of identifying location-specific operations which would ultimately compromise police tactics, operations and future prosecutions as criminals could counteract the measures used against them.

Any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of terrorists or criminal organisations. Information that undermines the operational integrity of those activities will adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on both national security and law enforcement.

Balance Test

Accordingly, in a position taken in common with other law enforcement agencies, confirming or denying this information would lead to an increase of harm to covert investigations and compromise law enforcement. This outweighs the benefits to disclosure, not least as disclosure would be to the detriment of providing an efficient policing service and a failure in providing a duty of care to all members of the public. Therefore, it is our opinion that for these reasons the balance test favours neither confirming nor denying that information is held.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

However, this should not be taken as necessarily indicating that any information that would meet your request exists or does not exist.

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/>