

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 24th February 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-220

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th February 2025, concerning motor vehicle 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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by Business Intelligence at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. Please provide information on the total number of thefts of motor vehicles recorded between 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023 (inclusive) and 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024 (inclusive) in your force area.
2. Please also provide a breakdown of the number of thefts of motor vehicles split by make and model within both time periods.
3. Please also provide a breakdown of the number of thefts of motor vehicles split by the city/town they were stolen from within both time periods.

Our 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.

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.

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The information you are requesting, specifically in regard to question 2, is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Unfortunately, there is no field on our systems in which we record the make and model of the vehicle that has been stolen. In order to determine the make and model of each vehicle, we would be required to manually interrogate each occurrence log and locate this information. During the time period requested, that would require us to review over 1100 occurrences.

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:

Distinct Count of OccNo	2023	2024	Grand Total
A350		1	1
ALDBOURNE		1	1
ALDERBURY		2	2
AMESBURY	10	8	18
ATWORTH	1	2	3
BARFORD ST MARTIN	2	1	3
BATH	1	4	5
BAYDON	1		1
BEANACRE		1	1
BIDDESTONE		1	1
BISHOPDOWN	4	4	8
BISHOPS CANNINGS		2	2
BISHOPSTROW	1		1
BOTTLESFORD	1		1
BOWERHILL	4	4	8
BOX	1	2	3
BRADFORD ON AVON	2	11	13
BRADFORD-ON-AVON		1	1

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BRIGMERSTON		1	1
BROAD HINTON		1	1
BROAD TOWN	2		2
BROMHAM		2	2
BROUGHTON GIFFORD		2	2
BULFORD		2	2
BULFORD CAMP		1	1
BURBAGE	1		1
BURTON		1	1
CALNE	4	12	16
CALSTONE	1		1
CASTLE COMBE		1	1
CHAPMANSLADE	1		1
CHARLTON	1		1
CHARMOUTH		1	1
CHEDGLOW	1		1
CHELWORTH	1		1
CHIPPENHAM	32	28	60
CHIRTON		1	1
CHOLDERTON	1	1	2
COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS	1		1
COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON	1		1
CORSHAM	21	16	37
CRICKLADE	3	1	4
CRUDWELL		1	1
DAUNTSEY		1	1
DEVIZES	14	22	36
DILTON MARSH	1	1	2
DINTON	3	1	4
DONHEAD ST MARY		1	1
DOWN AMPNEY		1	1
DOWNTON	3	6	9
DURRINGTON	2	1	3
EAST GRAFTON	1	1	2
EAST KENNETT	1		1
EASTON ROYAL	1		1
EDINGTON		1	1
FARLEY	1	2	3
FIGHELDEAN		1	1
FOREST	1	1	2
FOVANT	1		1
FROXFIELD		1	1
GASTARD		1	1
GLOUCESTER		1	1
GOMELDON	2		2
GREAT BEDWYN	1	2	3
GREAT CHEVERELL	1		1
GREAT DURNFORD		1	1
GREAT WISHFORD	1		1

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HAMPTWORTH		1	1
HEYTESBURY		1	1
HEYWOOD	2		2
HILL DEVERILL	1		1
HILMARTON		1	1
HILPERTON	5	7	12
HILPERTON MARSH		1	1
HINDON	1		1
HOLT		1	1
HONEYSTREET	1		1
HULLAVINGTON		1	1
KILMINGTON		2	2
LACOCK	2	3	5
LANDFORD	3	3	6
LARKHILL		3	3
LATTON	1		1
LAVERSTOCK		3	3
LEA	3		3
LEIGH DELAMERE		1	1
LIMPLEY STOKE	1		1
LITTLE LANGFORD	1		1
LITTLEDOWN	1		1
LONDON	2		2
LONGHEDGE	2	2	4
LOWER CHUTE		1	1
LOWER SOUTH WRAXALL		1	1
LOWER STANTON ST QUINTIN		1	1
LUCKINGTON	1	1	2
LUDGERSHALL	3	4	7
LYNEHAM	2		2
MALMESBURY	2	4	6
MANCHESTER	1		1
MARKET LAVINGTON		1	1
MARLBOROUGH	10	9	19
MARSHFIELD	1		1
MELKSHAM	13	30	43
MERE	3	1	4
MIDDLE WINTERSLOW		1	1
MILDENHALL	2	2	4
MILTON LILBOURNE		1	1
MONKTON DEVERILL		1	1
NESTON	2	1	3
NORTH BRADLEY	4		4
OAKSEY		1	1
OLD SARUM	6	3	9
ORCHESTON	1		1
PATTERDOWN		1	1
PERHAM DOWN		1	1
PEWSEY	8	4	12

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PITTON	1		1
PORTON		1	1
POTTERNE	1		1
PURTON		4	4
RAMSBURY		3	3
READING		1	1
REDLYNCH	2	4	6
ROWDE	2		2
ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT	2	5	7
SALISBURY	50	77	127
SANDY LANE		1	1
SEEND	2	1	3
SEMINGTON	1	1	2
SEMLEY	1		1
SHARCOTT	1		1
SHERSTON		2	2
SHREWTON	4	1	5
SOUTHAMPTON	1	1	2
STAPLEFORD	1		1
STAVERTON	2	2	4
STEEPLE ASHTON		1	1
STOURTON	1	1	2
SUTTON BENDER	1		1
SWINDON	189	176	365
TIDWORTH	3	2	5
TISBURY		2	2
TROWBRIDGE	28	19	47
UPAVON	1	1	2
UPPER MINETY	1		1
WARMINSTER	16	16	32
WESTBURY	11	11	22
WESTON-SUPER-MARE		1	1
WHITEPARISH	1	1	2
WILTON	4	11	15
WINCANTON	1		1
WINSLEY		4	4
WINTERBOURNE STOKE		1	1
WOODFALLS	1		1
YARNBROOK		1	1
YATTON KEYNELL		1	1
ZEALS	3	1	4
Grand Total	550	616	1166

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:

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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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker