

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 24/02/2025

Our ref: FOI 2025/169

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/02/2025 concerning firearms licencing.

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 by the firearms licencing team, and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Will your police force/constabulary be ring-fencing the extra income from the latest firearms licensing fee increase to the firearms licensing functions?

What improvements will you be making to streamline the system and reduce delays in grant and renewal?

Will you be looking to recruit additional staff and if so how many and in what function?

Response:

Q1: The recent increase in firearms licensing fees, effective from 5 February 2025, is a national decision made by the UK government to ensure that the fees more accurately reflect the costs of administering firearms licensing. The previous fee structure, unchanged since 2015, did not cover the full costs incurred by police forces in processing applications. A national review found that administrative costs had more than doubled over the past decade.

The increased fees are intended to support public safety by enabling police forces to provide an improved service to firearms applicants through better-resourced and trained licensing teams. This aligns with recommendations from the Senior Coroner's reports

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following the tragic shootings in Plymouth in 2021, which highlighted the need for greater oversight and resourcing in firearms licensing.

As the purpose of the fee increase is to achieve full-cost recovery, Wiltshire Police has no plans to ring-fence the additional income specifically for firearms licensing. The cost of administering firearms licensing extends across multiple departments and involves contributions from a wide range of officers and staff. The increase in fees reflects a national policy decision rather than a local funding allocation by Wiltshire Police.

Q2: At present there are no specific changes that are being implemented within Wiltshire police to alter the administration of firearms licencing or to streamline the processing of grants and renewals.

Q3: There are currently no [planned changes to officer or staff numbers that would directly impact the administration of firearms licencing within Wiltshire Police.

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

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

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 FoI 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

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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

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/>