

# WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX  
By email

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

**Date** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

**Our Ref** FOI 2025-348

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025, concerning Road Traffic Collisions involving Police cars responding to an emergency.

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 the Insurance & Litigation and Justice Traffic departments 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:**

*Clarification received 28.03.2025 - The request is for each of the calendar years 2020-2024.*

1. The number of recorded Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) involving a police vehicle and a non-police vehicle, where the police vehicle was responding to an incident with emergency warning equipment (blue lights and/or sirens) activated at the time of the collision.
  - a. Please exclude collisions involving pedestrians
  - b. Where possible, please indicate whether the collision occurred during a pursuit or en route to an incident.
2. For each year, please categorise RTCs by severity of the outcome as follows:

Damage Only

Personal Injury: further broken down by the number of individuals involved with injuries classified as:

Fatal

Serious

Slight

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3. For each year, for vehicles involved in these collisions, advise on:

The number of police vehicles written off following such collisions

Police vehicle repair costs

The costs paid out to third parties for injuries/damage to their vehicles

#### **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.*

The information you are requesting - namely in relation to question 3 - is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. This information is not held on our systems in a way that can be automatically extracted. To retrieve this information would require manually interrogating each individual motor case to initially establish if blue lights were active when the accident occurred, then further interrogate to retrieve the requested information. There are approximately 220 cases each year, meaning a total of approximately 880 cases would need to be manually interrogated across the 2020 to 2024 period. If only 2 minutes were spent per case, it would take in excess of 29 hours to complete this task.

**Please note - A new system is being implemented later this year which may be of assistance in returning information relevant to question 3 of your request. If you wanted to submit question 3 again in approximately 6 months' time, it is possible your request may be answerable.**

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:

1. The number of recorded Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) involving a police vehicle and a non-police vehicle, where the police vehicle was responding to an incident with emergency warning equipment (blue lights and/or sirens) activated at the time of the collision.
  - a. Please exclude collisions involving pedestrians
  - b. Where possible, please indicate whether the collision occurred during a pursuit or en route to an incident.
2. For each year, please categorise RTCs by severity of the outcome as follows:

Damage Only

Personal Injury: further broken down by the number of individuals involved with injuries classified as:

Fatal

Serious

Slight

**Please note:** We do not hold statistics for damage only RTCs, therefore, we are only able to provide statistics for injury RTCs.

|      | RTC's Involving Police Vehicle En Route to Incident |         |       |       |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Year | Slight                                              | Serious | Fatal | Total |
| 2020 | 1                                                   | 0       | 0     | 1     |
| 2021 | 2                                                   | 0       | 0     | 2     |
| 2022 | 6                                                   | 0       | 0     | 6     |
| 2023 | 4                                                   | 1       | 0     | 5     |
| 2024 | 2                                                   | 0       | 0     | 2     |

|      | RTC's Involving Police Vehicle During Pursuit |         |       |       |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Year | Slight                                        | Serious | Fatal | Total |
| 2020 | 1                                             | 0       | 0     | 1     |
| 2021 | 2                                             | 0       | 0     | 2     |
| 2022 | 6                                             | 0       | 0     | 6     |
| 2023 | 4                                             | 1       | 0     | 5     |
| 2024 | 2                                             | 0       | 1     | 3     |

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:

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**

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



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# 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](mailto: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:

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](mailto: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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>**

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