

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXX – by E Mail



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 24th April 2025

Our ref: FOI 2025/410

Reply contact name: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th April 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:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please confirm:-

1. How many police officers are currently serving in overseas armies.
2. How many police officers have served in overseas armies previously, whilst active police officers.
3. Please clarify the quantity from (1) and (2) above per overseas army.
4. Please how many from (1) and (2) above were dual nationals, stating their nationalities.

If some of the information is exempt under the Act, please provide the portions that can be disclosed and indicate the relevant exemption(s) applied to any redacted or withheld material.

If fulfilling this request in full would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please confirm the cost estimate. In such circumstances, please just confirm:-

1. How many police officers are currently serving in overseas armies.
2. How many police officers have served in overseas armies since 2020, whilst active police officers.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Response:

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 'how many officers are currently serving or have previously served in overseas armies including details of their nationalities...' would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2).

This is because we would need to essentially locate and then read each and every electronic and physical paper record pertaining to the employment records of both current and historical serving officers to ascertain the information you require.

Our current Centurion system (which records Professional Standard, Complaints and Business Interests information) is an old legacy database which contains limited records and information that has not always either been declared (such as other business interests) or accurately maintained - as a consequence, it cannot be relied upon to provide accurate information for publication in the public domain (as this FOI response would be).

In addition to consulting Centurion, we would also need to locate and review each and every employment record relating to all current and historic officers held either by our HR Team, RMU Team or in various archive systems or paper records around the Force.

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.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the 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

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny

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



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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

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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>