

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 9th June 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-539

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29th May 2025, concerning bow, crossbow & airgun offences.

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 Business Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote and our response:

Please note: This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "bow", "bow and arrow", "crossbow", "cross bow", "cross-bow", "BB Gun", "BB Pistol", "BB Rifle", "Airsoft gun", "Airsoft pistol", "air rifle", "air pistol", "air gun", "pellet rifle", "pellet pistol" and "pellet gun". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

The 2025 data is up to the end of April.

1. From 2019 to the most recent data available, how many crimes were logged by your police force where a bow or crossbow was recorded as being an element in the offence? Please provide a yearly breakdown in a table (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the phrases "bow", "bow and arrow", "crossbow", "cross bow" and "cross-bow").

Distinct Count of OccNo	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

	184	192	187	220	193	154	63	1193
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	-------------

2. From 2019 to the most recent data available, how many crimes were logged by your police force where an air rifle, airsoft gun or bb gun was recorded as being an element in the offence? Please provide a yearly breakdown in a table (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the phrases "BB Gun", "BB Pistol", "BB Rifle", "Airsoft gun", "Airsoft pistol", "air rifle", "air pistol", "air gun", "pellet rifle", "pellet pistol" and "pellet gun".

Crime Group	Crime Sub-Group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Arson And Criminal Damage	Arson	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Criminal Damage	10	12	14	11	19	12	6
Burglary	Burglary Business And Community	4	3	2	1	2	4	-
	Burglary Residential	7	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Residential Burglary Of A Home	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Residential Burglary Of Unconnected Building	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Drug Offences	Possession Of Drugs	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Possession Of Weapons	Possession Of Weapons	2	1	-	2	-	3	-
Public Order Offences	Public Order Offences	2	2	6	4	4	1	-
Robbery	Robbery	3	2	2	5	1	2	-
Sexual Offences	Other Sexual Offences	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
	Rape	-	2	-	3	1	1	1
Theft Offences	All Other Theft Offences	10	9	9	9	8	9	6
	Bicycle Theft	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
	Shoplifting	13	9	8	8	12	6	1
	Theft From The Person	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Vehicle Offences	Vehicle Offences	1	-	2	2	2	-	-
	Stalking And Harassment	-	1	1	1	5	4	4

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Violence Against The Person	Violence With Injury	95	104	107	126	92	74	29
	Violence Without Injury	37	44	33	41	41	34	15

3. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to bows or crossbows by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please provide this broken down by Home Office offence group and subgroup.

Distinct Count of OccNo	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
	56	59	47	69	75	37	15	359

4. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 2 that are 'linked' to air rifles, airsoft guns or bb guns by their mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please provide this broken down by Home Office offence group and subgroup.

Crime Group	Crime Sub-Group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Arson And Criminal Damage	Criminal Damage	35	34	26	30	25	17	2
Burglary	Burglary Business And Community	3	1	-	1	1	-	-
	Burglary Residential	4	5	3	1	2	-	-
	Residential Burglary Of A Home	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	Residential Burglary Of Unconnected Building	-	-	-	-	4	1	2
Drug Offences	Possession Of Drugs	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Trafficking Of Drugs	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Criminal Damage	Criminal Damage	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Possession Of Weapons	Possession Of Weapons	2	4	5	6	12	5	3
Public Order Offences	Public Order Offences	-	1	2	6	5	-	-
Robbery	Robbery	3	-	-	1	-	-	-

Theft Offences	All Other Theft Offences	-	2	2	1	1	1	-
	Shoplifting	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Vehicle Offences	Vehicle Offences	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Violence Against The Person	Stalking And Harassment	-	1	-	2	5	3	1
	Violence With Injury	6	6	4	14	11	1	4
	Violence Without Injury	3	5	1	5	9	6	1

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



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 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

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/>

Keeping Wiltshire Safe