

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – By email

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

Date 25th June 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-605

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd June 2025, concerning fail to stop collisions.

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 Justice Traffic 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:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Definition

For the purposes of this request, a "hit and run" refers to a "fail to stop collision" or a "fail to stop RTC (Road Traffic Collision)", where a driver involved in a collision does not remain at the scene as required by law.

Please provide the following data for each calendar year from 2019 to 2025 (inclusive):

1. The total number of recorded road traffic collisions identified as "fail to stop collisions" or "fail to stop RTCs".
2. A breakdown of these incidents by:
 - o Year/Month
 - o Outcome (e.g. suspect identified, suspect charged, no suspect traced)
 - o Whether any injuries were recorded (if available, broken down by severity: minor, serious, fatal)
3. The number of individuals arrested or charged in connection with hit-and-run incidents each year.
4. The number of hit-and-run incidents involving:
 - o A pedestrian
 - o A cyclist
 - o Another motor vehicle

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- Other road users (e.g. motorbike, scooter)
- 5. Where recorded, please provide:
 - The age and gender of the victim(s) involved in each incident.
 - The age and gender of any identified or charged suspect(s) (perpetrators).

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 is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Unfortunately, our systems do not have a way to pull this data automatically and so in order to locate and retrieve the information you have requested, we would be required to manually review all collisions during the time period in question. Between 2019 and the 24th June 2025, there are over 7800 "RTC – Fail to Stop" occurrences alone, however, as dispatch types can change after initially being recorded, we would need to also review other RTC occurrences on top of these to determine whether they were also relevant to this request.

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.

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

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(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