

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 30/07/2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: **FOI 2025/ 704**

Reply contact name is:

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/07/2025 concerning callouts to Religious and Heritage Buildings.

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 and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. The number of police incidents recorded at religious buildings or places of worship in each of the past three calendar years (2022–2024 and 2025 so far).
2. The number of incidents at heritage or listed buildings, for the same period.
3. Where recorded, a breakdown of the type of incident (e.g. theft, arson, trespassing, vandalism, hate crime, protest-related disturbance, etc.).
4. Any data or notes indicating whether the incident occurred in the context of civil unrest, riots or public disorder.

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:-

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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 type of information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. When recording a crime, Wiltshire Police do not have a specific field in which to indicate that a building is listed or a heritage site. To ascertain whether they were, we would need to manually peruse all relevant crime reports within the timeframe given. Unfortunately there are too many crime reports to search through to see if they relate to civil unrest, riots, etc. I have been able to provide you with some data for question 1 which is below.

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 falls 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. In respect of other questions within your request, I cannot think of a way in which you would be able to refine these questions, as they may incite further exemptions dependent on what information we may or may not hold.

The following data was collected before it became apparent that this would exceed the time / cost limits.

1.

Distinct Count of OccNo	2022	2023	2024	2025
Non-Crime Incident	32	42	43	117
Affray			1	
Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation			1	
Arson not endangering life	1		1	
Assault Constable - assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1			

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Sec 47)	2	8	6	1
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	6			
Assault of a female 13 or over by penetration			1	
Attempted burglary business and community		1		1
Burglary business and community	4	3	3	1
Burglary residential		1		
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (S4A POA)	1			
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	2	2	6	1
Common Assault and Battery	10	18	11	7
Criminal damage to a building - business and community (under £5000)	2			
Criminal damage to other property (under £5000)	6			
Criminal damage to vehicle (under £5000)	1			
Drunk and disorderly in a public place		1		
Engage in sexual communication with a child			1	
Exposure				1
Fear or provocation of violence (Sec 4)	1	2	3	2
Harassment			3	1
Harassment (S2 Harassment Act 1997)	2			
Harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 5 POA)	1			
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cannabis	1	3	2	
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cocaine			1	

Non Notifiable - Harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 5 POA)			1	1
Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation			2	
Other criminal damage to a building - business and community (under £5000)		3	1	2
Other criminal damage to a residence (under £5000)	1	1		
Other criminal damage to a vehicle (under £5000)	1	4	3	
Other criminal damage, other (under £5000)	2	3	5	1
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in E&W (whether or not in public place) injuring any person or assistance dog			1	
Possess an offensive weapon	1			
Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply - Cocaine	1			
Racially or religiously aggravated common assault or beating		1		
Rape of a female aged 16 or over	1	1		
Rape of a female aged under 16			1	
Recklessly/negligently act in manner likely to endanger aircraft/person in an aircraft			1	
Residential burglary of a home		1		
Robbery personal		2		

Send indecent or grossly offensive communication to cause distress or anxiety			1	
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 or over		1		
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	2			
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug - Other Class A drug				1
Theft from a motor vehicle	2	4	4	
Theft from shops and stalls			2	
Theft from the person of another	1		3	
Theft if not classified elsewhere		14	3	1
Theft of a pedal cycle		2		
Theft other	2			
Threats to destroy or damage property				1

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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 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 you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>