

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – Via email



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 8th September 2025

Our ref: FOI 2025-784

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th August 2025 regarding Roads Policing and Community Speed Watch.

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 Roads Policing Unit and Road Partnership 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 that the information below is for overt vehicles only.

How many Road Policing Officers do you have how many vehicles are there supporting RPU?

Officers: 33 – 27 PCs, 5 Sergeants, 1 Inspector

Vehicles: 16 – 10 cars and 6 motorcycles

Do you have employed coordinators for the Community Speed Watch operation?

Yes – 1

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that any information is held regarding specific covert vehicles as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice-based exemption and therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, along with the public interest favouring and against disclosure.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Overall Harm in Confirming or Denying whether Information is Held

Wiltshire Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The disclosure of whether a certain vehicle is or is not used in a covert capacity would provide offenders with valuable intelligence, facilitating their ability to commit crime and evade detection.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Confirming or Denying Information is Held

Confirmation or denial of whether this information is held would promote transparency and the accountability of Wiltshire Police and provide an indication of how public funds were being used. Furthermore, confirming or denying that this information is held would enable the public to know what resources were available in Wiltshire.

Factors Against Confirming or Denying Information is Held

Confirming or denying that this information is held would have an adverse effect on the ability of Wiltshire Police to effectively prevent and detect crime as a result of offenders being in possession of this information. If offenders knew whether a certain vehicle is or is not used for covert purposes, it would enable them to make more informed decisions and more skillfully plan offences, which would put operations, and therefore the public, at greater risk of harm. Offenders would be able to establish the number of resources the Force has, and this would help them to commit crime and evade capture. By evading capture, the greater public will be at risk and in turn, trust in the Police would be lost and an increase in crime could be seen.

Balance Test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming or denying whether information regarding specific covert vehicles exists. The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The Police Service will never divulge whether or not information is held if to do so would place the safety of individuals at risk.

Whilst there is a public interest in Wiltshire Police being as open and transparent as possible, there is a far greater public interest in safeguarding the public and this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances, which this Freedom of Information request is not.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regards to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released. Confirming or denying whether information is or isn't held would reveal police resources and tactics and would assist those intent on causing harm.

Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that for these issues the balance test for neither confirming nor denying that this specific information is held is made out.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that information does or does not exist.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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 31(3) – Law Enforcement

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and 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