

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 1st October 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-622

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27th June 2025, concerning drivers fined for not wearing seatbelts. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

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 Justice Traffic department 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:

1. How many drivers in total were fined for not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?
2. How many drivers between the ages of 17 and 29 were fined for not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?
3. The number of casualties caused by drivers not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?
4. The top 3 months where you reported the highest numbers of drivers being fined for not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?

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.

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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 - namely in relation to question 2 - is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. The ages of the drivers are not stored in a way that can automatically be retrieved from the system. To establish this, each notice would need to be manually interrogated and the ages extracted. Doing this would take approximately 5 minutes per record, which would take approximately 17 hours to complete. Once added to the time already spent retrieving the information for the remaining questions, the time obligations we have to respond would be exceeded and therefore this is exempt.

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.

Although excess cost removes the Forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I can provide you with is documented below:

Please note - The below has been supplied using the period 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025.

1. How many drivers in total were fined for not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?

There were 199 notices issued (FPN / TOR) and 3 Niche offences (Court process) covering the following offences:

- Drive on a road a motor vehicle whilst not wearing a seat belt
- Drive a motor vehicle on a road with a child under 14 years in front passenger seat not wearing a seat belt
- Ride in the front passenger seat of a motor vehicle being driven on a road whilst not wearing a seat belt

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- Ride in a rear passenger seat in a motor vehicle on a road and fail to wear seat belt
- Drive a motor vehicle on a road with a child passenger under 3 years seated in the rear not wearing a seat belt
- Drive motor vehicle on a road with child passenger aged 3 to 13 years sat in rear and not wearing a seat belt

'Notices issued' refers to the number of Fixed Penalty Notices / TOR offences, whereas 'Niche offences' refers to the offences that were input into the Court process. Some offences may be included within the figures for both as, if a notice is not complied with or the driver requests a Court hearing, the data will appear in both.

3. The number of casualties caused by drivers not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?

28 casualties

4. The top 3 months where you reported the highest numbers of drivers being fined for not wearing a seatbelt in your district in the last 12 months/in the previous 12 months up until your most recent data set?

1 ... Aug 2024 (35)

2 ... Sept 2024 (26)

3 ... Oct 2024 (22)

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

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,

FDU 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



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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/>

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