

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 1st October 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-905

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21st September 2025, concerning harassment, abuse or hate crime reports against Afghan nationals.

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 **not** obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information:

Incident Logs: Copies of anonymised incident logs or records for reported incidents of harassment, abuse, or hate crimes specifically targeting Afghan migrants (including refugees or asylum seekers) in Wiltshire.

Please include:

Date of incident.

Location (e.g., town/village within Wiltshire).

Type of incident (e.g., verbal harassment, physical, online).

Outcome (e.g., no further action, investigation ongoing, charges filed).

Time period: From 1 January 2023 to the present date (21 September 2025).

Statistical Data: Aggregated statistics on the number of reported incidents matching the above description, broken down by:

Month/year.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

www.wiltshire.police.uk | [Facebook/wiltshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice) | [X/X/wiltshirepolice](https://twitter.com/X/wiltshirepolice) | [LinkedIn/company/wiltshirepolice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiltshirepolice)

Location (e.g., by district or postcode area).

Type of harassment.

If available, any trends or summary reports on such incidents.

Related Communications: Any correspondence between Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Council regarding these incidents or broader concerns about harassment against Afghan migrants in the county, from 1 January 2023 to present (anonymised to remove personal data).

Our response:

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held - namely regarding the related communications part of your request - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2).

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:

- ❖ Data is provided for all occurrences under crime sub-group 'Stalking & Harassment', and any other crime groups where there is the NICL 'Qualifier Prejudice – Racial' applied, where the victim has a birth country of Afghanistan recorded.
- ❖ To avoid identification, due to the low number of results, the specific date of each incident has not been disclosed.
- ❖ The occurrence summaries have been redacted where necessary to remove identifiable information.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

❖ Wiltshire Police do not record the immigration status of an individual.

Date	Offence Description	Occurrence Town	Detection Status	Occ Summary
February 2023	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	SWINDON	18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	Unknown suspect has allegedly been racist towards the RP. No racial element. I/p shouted at and told to fuck off. Offenders left when i/p called police.
June 2023	Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	SWINDON	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	RP has been receiving unwanted contact from suspect after telling them he did not want them to contact him anymore. The suspect has also been turning up at the RP's families addresses.
November 2023	Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	SWINDON	16: Victim declines / withdraws support - named suspect identified	Known male has called the IP and has stated that they will kill the IP, cut their head off and burn their house down. This has caused the IP distress and caused them to feel scared.
February 2025	Other criminal damage to a residence (under £5000)	BULFORD	18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	Unknown suspect has kicked IP's door leaving a boot mark and causing cracking to the wall around the door.
March 2025	Harassment	SWINDON	16: Victim declines / withdraws support - named suspect identified	Suspect known to the IP has acted towards them in threatening manner, this has happened on multiple occasions and is a course of conduct of harassment.
April 2025	Harassment	TIDWORTH	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	unknown suspect (s) have been kicking the IPS door and running away. repeat incidents, possibly racially motivated
April 2025	Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate family relationship	PERHAM DOWN	New - Under Investigation	male engaged in controlling and coercive behaviour with his spouse. He also assaulted her on several occasions, causing actual bodily harm

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



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

www.wiltshire.police.uk | [Facebook/wiltshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice) | [X/@wiltshirepolice](https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice) | [LinkedIn/company/wiltshirepolice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiltshirepolice)

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