

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 3rd November 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 1000

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20th October 2025 concerning Seizures of Weapons.

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:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown on the number of weapons confiscated in the community, starting from the period 1st of January 2020 to 19th of October 2025.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown of what weapons were legal and illegal from the period stated above.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown on the type of weapons confiscated (eg zombie knives, machetes, AK-47 etc) in the community from the period stated above.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown on what happened to the weapons confiscated from the period stated above?

-Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who were arrested, fined, charged, or had no further action taken in relation to having possession of these weapons

-Please provide a monthly breakdown into details of the person arrested, such as their age, gender, nationality and location from the period stated above.

-And I ask anything within the spirit of the request be included in the response.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

I also request the following information be presented in a document that can be copy and pasted from, and can allow for keywords to be searched in the document.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are fairly sophisticated and contain a number of fields in which we record specific information about a crime or incident (such as victim name, suspect date of birth, crime location etc) – and which can then theoretically be searched to locate relevant information – we do not have a specific field in which we record the following :-

- a) That a weapon has been seized for a particular crime reference
- b) Whether a weapon type is legal or not
- c) What happened to the weapon following seizure

If held, this information would only be recorded either in the narrative of the occurrence log, or in supporting documents such as statements, records of interview or other associated paperwork.

Given that a weapons seizure could happen for virtually any particular categorised crime - and not simply during a Stop & Search – there are numerous records that would need to be referenced in order to locate the information you require.

In any given calendar year, Wiltshire Police record c40,000 individual crimes – so for the time period you require we are looking at in excess of 200,000 crime files to review.

Even allowing a very conservative 3 minutes per record (on average) to review a crime log, I estimate that locating the information you require would take approximately 10,000 man-hours to achieve (or 270 man-weeks).

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.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case, even to provide the information for only 1 calendar month for instance (which would still take in excess of 140 hours to accomplish).

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the 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

- (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.

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

Nick Penny
Disclosure 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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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 FoI 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