

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXX
Sent via email: XXX



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 12/11/25

Our ref: FOI 2025/1031

Reply contact name is: XXX

Dear XXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/10/25 concerning Stop and Search.

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:

Can you provide 100 random samples from stop and search incident logs (Which you must record) between 1st January 2024 and 1st January 2025 with the following information? To ensure fairness, I request that the 100 incidents be randomly selected (e.g. by applying a random number generator across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe). Please record what random sample method you used.

For each one of the samples, can you please provide the following:

1. Which random number log was it?
 2. Identify whether it was public-initiated or Police-initiated (Definition below).
 3. 3a. If the search was public-led, record the caller's description of the suspect (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
 - 3b. Record the officer's description of the person being searched (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
- (Complete both if information is provided by both the public and the officer.)
4. Time/date of the search

Response:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

The data is captured on a Stop Search form which is then added to Niche as a report, not all stop searches have a free text OEL (occurrence evidence log). There is no field on the form to record whether it was initiated by a member of the public or police officer so despite the request only being for 100 records, the force would have to search through all in the time period to find 100 with OELs, and then read them to see if there was any information on what initiated the stop search. There are x1,299 incidents, therefore if each record took 5 minutes to review, it would take thousands of hours to obtain the relevant information for the requested period. This would exceed the time limit.

Under the circumstances I am 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.

Please note that if one part of the request engages in a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage in a Section 12 response. The reason being is because locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations. Please also note that forces may use different recording systems therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

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

(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.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed on 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

Force 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



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 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

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/>