



WILTSHIRE POLICE

XXX
Sent via email-XXX

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

Date: 17/12/25

Ref: FOI 2025/1111

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/11/25 concerning crimes recorded at Christian places of worship.

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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded crime statistics held in your force's databases for the period 1 January 2010 - 31 December 2024 (or latest available):

1. Crimes recorded at Christian places of worship

Please provide the number of recorded crimes where the premises type / location category is recorded or coded as:

Church

Chapel

Christian place of worship

Churchyard / graveyard associated with a church

Please provide totals broken down by calendar year.

If your force uses alternative terms or codes for churches, please use your own premises-type code and specify the term used.

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2. Total crimes recorded (all premises types)

For the same period, please provide the total number of crimes recorded at all premises types, by calendar year.

(This allows for proportional comparison.)

3. Recording practice clarification

If your force does not record premises type in a searchable field, please confirm: whether premises type is stored in any structured field, whether it is searchable, the earliest date from which it becomes searchable (if applicable).

Important notes to avoid Section 12

To be clear:

I am not requesting case files, free-text logs, or narrative searches.

I am requesting only pre-existing aggregated data from structured fields, such as premises-type codes, building-type fields, MO location fields, or other location categories used in your crime-recording system.

If some years cannot be extracted within the cost limit, please provide all years that can be extracted, and state the earliest year available.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Whilst our crime recording systems are very modern and we record several characteristics about a crime in specific fields; we do not record everything. We do not have a specific field in which we record whether a crime has occurred specifically at a church, chapel, Christian place of worship or churchyard / graveyard associated with a church. We also do not have a field within which to record a specific religion.

Whilst we have a field called "Building Type" in which we can record the location of a particular crime, this field is not a mandatory one and it is not used very often – generally at the discretion of the individual recording the incident at the time - so much so that any results obtained using searches based on that field would be incredibly low indeed and completely unreliable in terms of publishing in the public domain (as this response would be).

We do record the address where a crime is reported to have occurred, but this would not always state whether the location was a Church, Chapel, Christian place of worship or churchyard / graveyard associated with a church, so once again, any searches undertaken specifically on those criteria would be equally inaccurate.

The only way we can ascertain the information you require would be to undertake a manual search of every reported crime for the last 15 calendar years and read each occurrence log to try and ascertain whether it meets your criteria or not.

In a typical calendar year, Wiltshire Police normally record more than 40,000 crimes.

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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.

Forces may use different recording systems; therefore, it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you to refine your request to a more manageable level. If you were to provide a list of Christian churches with their addresses and postcodes– then the force may be able to reduce the number of results that need interrogating. Please note this may still incur a section 12 response.

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 request.

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

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

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



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

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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