



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

Ref: FOI 2025/1121

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/11/25 concerning arrests of parties involved in civil proceedings in the family court.

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:

Is it possible to find out how many arrests of parties involved in civil proceedings in the family court in Wiltshire, given you do store that information as part of investigations as part of standard practice (I have been informed by both the Crown Prosecution Service in Chippenham and senior officers in Wiltshire Police that this data is captured).

For the years 2017-2024

And can you please provide the breakdown of male vs female arrested parties in those police actions

And additionally the number of arrests that led to charging decisions

The number of parties that were given notice of NFA

Where parties were bailed the average length of that bail process

and lastly how many people were cautioned or charged with offences regarding the making of false allegations in civil proceedings during that same time period.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Our computer systems do not allow a way of identifying whether an individual is involved in civil proceedings in the Family Courts; there is no flag on our systems to identify this connection. We would have to look at every crime, read every investigation log and any associated documents to ascertain the information you are requesting, and it is likely that there will not always be any mention that an individual arrested is a party involved in civil proceedings in a family court. Even if we were to look at every individual we have provided information about, to a Family Court or a solicitor connected to a Family Court, to establish whether they were arrested and involved in civil proceedings in a Family Court would be a mammoth task. It should also be noted, that Wiltshire Police does not provide information for every Family Court case.

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. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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.

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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
Telephone 101

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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 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

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Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk