

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – By email

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

Date 6th January 2026

Our Ref FOI 2025-1188

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th December, concerning domestic burglaries.

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 Unit 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:

For recorded domestic burglary offences only (i.e. residential premises), please provide the following data for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024:

1. Total number of domestic burglaries
The total number of recorded domestic burglary offences for each calendar year (2023 and 2024), shown separately.
2. Items stolen
A list of the items or item categories recorded as stolen in domestic burglary offences during this period.
3. Frequency of theft
The number of times each item or item category was recorded as stolen, broken down by year (2023 and 2024) where available.
4. Location within the property (if available) If recorded, please indicate whether stolen items were taken from:
 - Inside the main dwelling
 - A garage
 - A shed or outbuilding
 - Other external storage areas
5. Data format
Please provide the information in a tabular format (such as Excel or CSV), with clear column headings, for example:
Year
Total number of domestic burglaries

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Item or item category

Number of recorded thefts

Location within property (if available)

If item-level descriptions are not held centrally, please provide the highest level of categorisation available (for example: jewellery, bicycles, power tools, electronics).

Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

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.

The information you are requesting – namely questions 2, 3, 4 and 5 – is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Unfortunately our systems do not have filters to allow us to determine the types of items stolen and the location that these were stolen from inside of the property. Whilst we can see that in 2023 there were 1165 domestic burglaries and in 2024 there were 1120, in order to locate this further information, we would be required to manually review each occurrence. If each review took only 1 minute, this would take over 38 hours to complete.

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.

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

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(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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker