

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: February 5, 2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/032

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th January 2026 concerning sound detector technology.

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 able to respond as follows.

You Wrote:

I am interested in the growing use of technology capable of detecting "sound events" which is being deployed, often in conjunction with CCTV systems, to monitor public areas.

This technology is designed to use audio inputs to detect sounds such as gun shots, human screams or shouts, speeding vehicles or anti-social behaviour to improve public safety.

I am trying to establish the extent to which this technology is currently being used in the UK by police forces where the force operates its own CCTV network in public areas such as town centres or road networks.

Specifically, I would like to ask:

:: Is your force using, or has it previously tested, sound detector technology as described above to monitor public areas for emergencies or anti-social behaviour?

:: If yes, please provide details of how many sound detectors or sound detector-equipped CCTV cameras you are operating and when they were installed.

To be clear, this request does not apply to CCTV or monitoring systems which can broadcast sound via a loudspeaker, for example to issue a public warning. It applies only to technology which monitors public spaces for audio or noise events.

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Secondly, this request does not apply to CCTV or monitoring equipment operated by local authorities. It applies only to systems directly operated by police forces.

Response:

After making enquiries with a number of different departments / people, I do not believe that Wiltshire Police has or is currently using this type of software / technology.

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,

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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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
Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>