

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 13th March 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-201

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16th February 2026, concerning Palestine Action arrests, policing costs and guidance.

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, Finance, Learning & Development and Counter Terrorism Policing departments at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Clarification received 20.02 - Please cover arrests from the date Palestine Action became a proscribed organisation onwards (from 05/07/25)

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning the proscription of Palestine Action as a Terrorist group under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Please provide the total number of individuals arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 in connection with protest activity linked to Palestine Action from January 2024 up to January 2026

Of these arrests, how many resulted in:

Release without charge
Charges dropped
Convictions

What was the estimated policing cost associated with investigating protestors under terrorism legislation between January 2024 and January 2026, including officer hours, specialist counter-terror units, Surveillance or detention costs (where recorded)

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Please confirm whether any special counter-terrorism funding was used in relation to protest activity linked to Palestine Action.

Any guidance, training, advice or information issued to Police officers which includes examples of the types of speech, words, or language, symbols, or flags, that could be associated with s.12 and s.13 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

If possible, please provide the data electronically and break it down by month.

Our response:

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny whether the information requested for questions 1 and 3 are held by virtue of the following exemptions:

- Section 24(2) - National Security
- Section 31(3) - Law Enforcement
- Section 40(5) - Personal Data

Sections 24 and 31 are both prejudice-based, qualified exemptions and therefore require Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, and the public interest for and against disclosure.

Please see the rationale for this after the below response.

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds information relevant to this request by virtue of Section 40(5). This is because confirmation or denial of the information requested would constitute personal data and as a result, would contravene the first Data Protection Principle, which states in part to process personal data fairly and lawfully.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore there is no requirement to articulate the harm or conduct a Public Interest test.

1. *Please provide the total number of individuals arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 in connection with protest activity linked to Palestine Action from January 2024 up to January 2026*

Of these arrests, how many resulted in:

*Release without charge
Charges dropped
Convictions*

The Force holds no arrests under Sections 12 or 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 relating to inviting or expressing support for a proscribed organisation; however, in respect of any other Terrorism Act arrests that may fall within scope of your request, the force can neither confirm nor deny whether such information is held by virtue of Sections 24(2), 31(3) and 40(5).

2. *What was the estimated policing cost associated with investigating protestors under terrorism legislation between January 2024 and January 2026, including officer hours, specialist counter-terror units, Surveillance or detention costs (where recorded)*

No information held - Wiltshire Police do not record policing costs specially related to investigating protestors under terrorism legislation.

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3. *Please confirm whether any special counter-terrorism funding was used in relation to protest activity linked to Palestine Action.*

The force can neither confirm nor deny whether such information is held by virtue of Sections 24(2) and 31(3).

4. *Any guidance, training, advice or information issued to Police officers which includes examples of the types of speech, words, or language, symbols, or flags, that could be associated with s.12 and s.13 of the Terrorism Act 2000.*

No information held - s12 and s13 are not covered in any training material.

Overall Harm

Confirming or denying whether Wiltshire Police holds any other Terrorism Act arrests linked to protest activity associated with Palestine Action, or whether any special counter terrorism funding was used in relation to such activity, would risk providing an advantage to individuals seeking to undermine policing strategies, particularly those designed to safeguard national security.

FOIA is a disclosure to the world; therefore, any acknowledgement of information held could be misused, potentially compromising sensitive counter terrorism operations.

Confirmation or denial would also enable individuals to infer whether Wiltshire Police has deployed counter terrorism resources or investigative tactics in relation to specific protest activity. This could assist those intent on disrupting police activity by adapting behaviour to evade detection, identifying perceived gaps in capability, or assessing the likelihood of being the subject of CT interest.

Any information indicating the focus of policing or counter terrorism activity—whether arrests or funding—could be exploited by terrorists, extremists, or organised criminals. Whether information is or is not held, disclosure would adversely affect public safety, compromise operational tactics, and undermine the ability of policing to protect national security. Additionally, confirmation or denial could facilitate “mosaic requests,” enabling malicious actors to combine multiple disclosures to build a picture of counter terrorism posture, resourcing, or thresholds. This would significantly undermine operational effectiveness and the prevention and detection of crime.

The threat from terrorism in the UK remains significant, and policing relies on the covert and flexible deployment of counter terrorism assets. Confirming or denying whether Wiltshire Police holds relevant information would therefore be counterproductive to safeguarding national security, frustrate law enforcement functions, and weaken long established policing methods. For these reasons, confirming or denying whether this information is held may compromise the efficiency of policing services, prejudice ongoing or future investigations, and increase the risk to the public.

Public Interest Test

Section 24

Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held

Confirming or denying whether the requested information is held could promote transparency regarding national security arrangements and enable the public to understand how resources are allocated to protect the country. This openness could strengthen public confidence in the effectiveness of security strategies.

Factors against confirmation or denying that any other information is held

Disclosure of any policing or counter terrorism arrangements of this nature would render security measures less effective. Confirming or denying the existence of information relating to CT arrests or CT funding would compromise operations designed to protect the UK's infrastructure and public safety. This would increase the risk of harm to the public and necessitate a review of CT security arrangements, incurring additional costs and operational risk.

Section 31

Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held

Confirming or denying whether Wiltshire Police holds the requested information could demonstrate accountability and openness in policing operations. It would reinforce public confidence in the police service and its commitment to transparency about how it engages with its responsibilities and utilises public funds.

Factors against confirmation or denying that any other information is held

Confirming or denying whether Wiltshire Police holds records relating to additional TACT arrests or the use of CT funding could compromise policing tactics, hinder the prevention and detection of crime, and reveal operational focus. This could enable criminal groups or extremists to exploit policing methods, directly affecting Wiltshire Police resources and public safety. Disclosure also risks undermining collaborative CT law enforcement efforts essential for managing complex and sensitive investigations.

Balance Test

The security of the country is paramount. Wiltshire Police will not confirm or deny whether information is held if doing so would undermine national security, law enforcement functions, or investigative processes. While transparency is important, the public interest in safeguarding the integrity of counter terrorism operations and maintaining effective policing capability is significantly stronger.

Confirming or denying whether information is held could enable individuals to gain insight into CT investigative strategies, funding deployment, operational thresholds, or arrest activity, jeopardising operations and increasing the risk of harm. Any disclosure that risks prejudicing national security or law enforcement is therefore not in the public interest.

Accordingly, after weighing the competing interests, confirmation or denial of whether Wiltshire Police holds information relating to this request would not be in the public interest. This should not be taken as indicating whether such information exists.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, 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 24(2) - National Security

Section 31(3) - Law Enforcement

Section 40(5) - Personal Data

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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,

FDU 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



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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 Fol 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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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