

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – By email

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

Date 1st March 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-267

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th March, concerning the Beaufort Hunt.

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:

1. How many times the Beaufort Hunt have called police to attend because of claims concerning hunt saboteurs 2025 to the current date.
2. What these claims consisted of and the outcomes.
3. How much police money has been spent attending calls to the Beaufort Hunt - from both the hunt, hunt saboteurs (and members of the public if applicable) 2025 to current date.
4. How many meetings have been attended between Wiltshire Police and the Beaufort Hunt over the same period.
5. How many meetings have been attended between Wiltshire Police and PCC Phillip Wilkinson over the same period.
6. How many meetings have been attended between Wiltshire Police and Lord Benjamin Mancroft over the same period

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:-

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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 is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. In relation to questions 1-3, as there is no way to filter on our systems whether a call related to the Beaufort Hunt, in order to locate this information we would be required to manually interrogate each call log for the time period in question. Regarding questions 4-6, there is no central record of meetings held and therefore, we would need to manually interrogate every paper record relating to in-person meetings and every online meeting appointment to establish whether it related to the Beaufort Hunt, PCC Phillip Wilkinson or Lord Benjamin Mancroft.

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

(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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe