

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 09/04/2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026/ 268

Reply contact name is:

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/03/2026 concerning international deployments.

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:

Please can I request the total number of international deployments undertaken by your force in the last 24 months, split by (where possible):

- o (a) police officers and (b) police staff; and
- o operational vs non operational (as defined below).

Please count both:

- o distinct deployments (each trip/mission) and
- o individuals deployed (headcount; where one person undertook multiple deployments, please indicate if counted once or multiple times depending on what you hold).

If within the S12 cost limit, can I please also request a breakdown of the deployments by:

- * Destination country/territory;
- * Primary purpose/theme, e.g., executive policing/public order/investigation/DVI (operational) or training/mentoring/monitoring/advising/programme management (non operational);
- * Sponsoring/commissioning body (e.g., Home Office, FCDO, UN, EU, OSCE, bilateral partner);
- * Duration (e.g., <2 weeks; 2-12 weeks; >12 weeks).
- * Where you hold it, please provide the unit or department within your force that coordinated the deployment/operation/mission name or reference.

Preferably, please provide data in an excel format - however I appreciate this may not be possible. If any part of the request is likely to exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please

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provide the initial set of bullets in this request first and advise how I could refine the remainder under Section 16 duty to advise and assist.

Definitions (for the purpose of this request)

- * International deployment: any period of duty performed outside the UK, including the British Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies.
- * Operational deployment: an overseas deployment in which police powers and/or operational functions are exercised (e.g., public order/public safety operations; investigations; disaster victim identification; executive policing; command roles).
- * Non operational deployment: an overseas deployment not involving the exercise of police powers, typically related to training, mentoring, monitoring, advising, capacity building, or programme/project management (consistent with NPCC IPAS for Non Operational International Policing and FCDO international secondment categories).

Response:

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny, that it holds the information you have requested by virtue of the following exemptions:

S23(5) Information supplied by or concerning certain Security Bodies

S24(2) National Security

S27(4) International Relations

S31(3) Law Enforcement

Sections 24, 27 and 31 are qualified exemptions and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest in confirmation or denial.

Evidence of Harm:

Confirming or denying that information is held would reveal whether specific overseas states have sought or received policing assistance. This would undermine the confidence and trust essential for effective international cooperation. Foreign partners expect discretion and breaching that expectation would damage the UK's ability to maintain secure, productive relationships with states and international bodies.

Revealing—even through confirmation or denial—where UK policing expertise has been applied overseas would also provide insight into operational capability, international priorities, and levels of threat. This would be reasonably expected to prejudice national security by assisting hostile actors in identifying operational focus areas and potential vulnerabilities.

Modern policing relies on intelligence-led activity and international cooperation. If it became publicly identifiable which countries had received training, or which had sought it, this would reveal patterns of threat, capability, and law-enforcement gaps. That information could be exploited by those seeking to frustrate prevention or detection of crime and would directly prejudice law-enforcement operations.

Public Interest Considerations

Factors favouring confirmation or denial information is held s24 National Security

We appreciate the importance of the public being informed on how public money is being spent and how public authorities conduct their activities and generate their income. Confirming whether any other information regarding policing assistance to international states is held would increase public confidence and allow for better informed public debate.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held s24 National Security

To confirm or deny whether any other information is held risks prejudicing national security. It is not in the public interest to compromise ongoing or future operations which protect

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the security or infrastructure of the UK by undermining the need to use the NCND approach to such requests consistently.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial information is held s27 International Relations:

There is a clear public interest in making appropriate information available to the public. Confirmation or denial information is held would act to reinforce the commitment of Wiltshire Police as an open and transparent organisation, serving to maintain public confidence in the force and the wider policing service as a whole. Moreover, use of public money, as well as the income generated by public bodies is also a matter of strong public interest.

Greater public awareness of whether any countries have benefited from delivery of training and expertise, would provide reassurance to the public at large and help to promote a feeling of increased safety amongst the public in both the UK and the world at large.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held s27 International Relations:

Confirming or denying information is held in this case is very likely to compromise the ability of the UK to promote and protect its interests abroad whilst also undermining the UK's ability to form new and mutually beneficial relationships with other states. The reduction in revenue is likely to result from states choosing not to approach the UK for further services in the future. The damage that confirmation or denial is likely to cause to the UK's international relations in this case cannot be said to be in the public interest.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial information is held s31 Law Enforcement:

Confirmation or denial information is held would lead to better public awareness identifying that the force undertake work with law enforcement agencies from across the world. This would allow greater insight into when and how public money is spent.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held s31 Law Enforcement:

Confirmation or denial information is held in this case would compromise the forces' ability to engage and assist overseas police forces in tackling international threats and share best practice within policing in the future. Confirmation or denial would confirm that countries had or had not taken a direct interest in, or been provided with assistance in a given time, which could infer the level of overseas criminal threats. The safety of the public is of paramount importance, and any increase in crime both in the UK and abroad which results in harm to the wider population cannot be considered to be in the public interest.

Balance Test:

While there is a public interest in transparency and debate about how policing resources are used, this interest is outweighed in this case by the significant and predictable harm that confirmation or denial would cause. Revealing whether any information is held would damage the trust of international partners, undermine the UK's ability to conduct effective international relations, and prejudice both national security and future law-enforcement cooperation.

Given the severity of the risks, the public interest lies firmly in neither confirming nor denying whether information is held. No inference should be drawn from this response.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, 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 Keeping Wiltshire Safe

(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:

S23(5) Information supplied by or concerning certain Security Bodies

S24(2) National Security

S27(4) International Relations

S31(3) Law Enforcement

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

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



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