

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: June 18, 2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/547

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th June 2026 concerning roadside drug testing.

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 researching the use of roadside oral fluid drug testing devices across UK police forces, with a particular focus on THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) detection. This request relates to a public interest matter concerning the reliability of oral fluid testing technology and its ability to distinguish between illegal cannabis use and legal CBD product consumption or passive smoke exposure.

Please provide the following information for each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 (year to date):

1. The total number of roadside oral fluid drug screening tests conducted by Wiltshire Police.
2. The number of those tests that returned a positive indication for THC (cannabis).
3. The make, model, and manufacturer of the roadside oral fluid drug screening device(s) currently in use by Wiltshire Police, and the THC detection threshold (cutoff level in ng/mL) for each device.
4. The number of THC-positive roadside screening results that were subsequently confirmed by laboratory analysis (evidential testing), and the number that were not confirmed.

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5. The number of THC-positive cases that resulted in: (a) charge or summons, (b) no further action (NFA), or (c) any other disposal.

6. Whether Wiltshire Police has received any complaints, representations, or correspondence from individuals who attributed a positive THC result to: (a) the use of legal, over-the-counter CBD products, or (b) passive exposure to cannabis smoke. If so, please provide the number of such complaints or representations received in each year.

7. Whether Wiltshire Police has any written guidance, policy, or standard operating procedure that addresses: (a) the possibility of legal CBD products causing a positive THC indication on roadside screening devices, or (b) the interpretation of low-level positive THC results in the context of passive smoke exposure. If such guidance exists, please provide a copy.

Response:

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. However, to establish whether the information is held for Question Six would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages Section 12(2). This is as we would need to essentially search and read each and every electronic and physical document held throughout the entirety of Wiltshire Police to see if they related to this Question. These documents could be in any space owned by Wiltshire Police (both electronically and physically), therefore these would include each and every room, desk, locker etc... Once we have done this, we would then have to review them (if even held) to see if they related to the requested time period.

Please note that if one part of an FOI request (specifically for this request Question Six), is exempt under Section 12, then the whole request falls under this exemption.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I would advise that you could resubmit your request without this Question, however please note that other exemption(s) may be applicable.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the 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(2)

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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.

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Yours Sincerely,

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 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:

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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/>