

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 21/07/2026

Our ref **FOI 2026/510**

Reply contact name is: XXXX

Dear XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 03/06/2026 concerning Pride events in 2024-2025 and 2025 – 2026 financial years.

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, searches were conducted with Resource Management, Special Operations and Policies contacts of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Please provide the following recorded information regarding the force's involvement in, and attendance at, local Pride events during the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 financial years.

1. Attendance and Staffing

- The total number of police officers and staff who attended local Pride events in an official capacity (e.g., as part of a community engagement team, diversity network, or march delegation), broken down by event name and year. Please note this excludes officers deployed solely for public safety or operational crowd policing.
- Whether officers participating in the event/parade were permitted to do so while on-duty, or if attendance was strictly voluntary/off-duty.
- Policy and Guidance

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- Copies of any internal policies, directives, joining instructions, or briefing notes issued to officers and staff regarding uniform requirements and appearance standards while attending Pride events.
- Specifically, please provide any updated guidance or policy decisions regarding whether uniformed officers are permitted to march, following recent operational guidance or rulings regarding police impartiality.

2.3 Any Equality Impact Assessment carried out by the authority in relation to attendance at Pride.

our response:

To locate this information would require a review of several different force systems and significant clerical work to ascertain. Section 1(1)(a) of the act obligates Wiltshire police to confirm or deny whether the information is held. Records were manually recorded and may have now been destroyed, however, to establish whether they are still held would in itself exceed the appropriate limit (18 hours) therefore section 12(2) is engaged.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would ordinarily 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. However, to assist where possible Wiltshire Police can provide the following points:

- All officers were deployed as part of public safety; nobody was allocated a march delegation. Officers were deployed days and evening shifts.
- Wiltshire Police are not aware of any internal policies, joining instructions, or briefing notes issued in relation to the attendance at pride events. Where impact assessments are related, an approach may need to be made to Silver and Bronze commanders, who have now retired, to ascertain if any guidance or joining instructions were sent. To find out if the information is held, we would need to manually trawl through all internal systems which would take several hours of work. This would involve significant clerical work to ascertain and review of teams meetings along with e-mail reviews.
- A directive detailing the Forces stance on attendance at Pride events has been attached.

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 (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.

Exemption applied:

Section 12(2): Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

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.

Section 12(2) states: '... Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph along would exceed the appropriate limit...'

Forces may use different recording systems; therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

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 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.

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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/>