



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

Date 15th July 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-572

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/06/2026.

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 Justice Traffic department at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered, and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

I would like to request the following information from your organisation relating to vehicle registration plates, enforcement notices and cases involving incorrect or fraudulent vehicle identification.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the last three years, broken down into calendar years:

1. Number of charges

Please provide the total number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs), Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), road user charging notices, bus lane penalties, parking penalties or other vehicle-related enforcement notices.

2. Enforcement notices

Please provide the total number of enforcement notices that could not be pursued because:

- The registration mark could not be reliably read.
- cloned vehicle / cloned registration plate
- registration plate altered, obscured or otherwise fraudulent
- The vehicle identified in the notice was determined not to be the offending vehicle
- Please remove or inform us if emergency vehicles are part of this data

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3. Cancelled charges

Please provide the total number of charges that were subsequently cancelled:

- The registration mark could not be reliably read.
- cloned vehicle / cloned registration plate
- registration plate altered, obscured or otherwise fraudulent
- The vehicle identified in the notice was determined not to be the offending vehicle
- Please remove or inform us if emergency vehicles are part of this data

4. Complaints/reports

Please provide the number of reports received from motorists claiming their vehicle registration plate had been cloned Please provide the number of cases where your organisation accepted that a cloned registration plate had been used.

5. Intelligence on fraudulent plates

Please provide any strategic assessments, problem profiles or intelligence reports produced concerning the growing use of cloned, ghost or fraudulent registration plates.

6. Value of revenue lost

Please provide the number and estimated total value (£) of penalties, charges, fines, tolls or other enforcement revenues that were collected over the last three years, broken down into financial years.

Please provide the number and estimated total value (£) of penalties, charges, fines, tolls or other enforcement revenues that could not be collected, were cancelled, written off, refunded or otherwise became unrecoverable as a result of:

Cloned registration plates.

Altered, obscured, ghost or otherwise fraudulent registration plates.

Cases where the offending vehicle could not be reliably identified.

Insufficient ANPR or camera evidence.

Please provide this for the last three years, broken down into financial years.

Please provide the number and total value (£) of enforcement notices that were cancelled after the recipient successfully demonstrated that their vehicle registration plate had been cloned..

Our response:

Some of the information you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. We are unable to search for intelligence on fraudulent plates, due to the way it would be recorded, we would have to manually search for this information, if we even held this.

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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.

Although excess cost removes the Forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I can provide you with is documented below:

Please note (Wiltshire Police holds no information in relation to your questions concerning the below):

- Bus lane enforcement for the County of Wiltshire is carried out by the local authorities (Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council).
- Parking penalties for the County of Wiltshire is carried out by the local authorities.
- Penalty charge notices (PCNs) would be issued by the local authorities.
- Road user charge notices – if these are in force in Wiltshire they would be issued by local authorities.
- Wiltshire Police do not receive revenue for FPNs. Revenue for any FPN/TOR issued by Wiltshire Police is collected by HMCTS.
- Other vehicle related enforcement notices
- Wiltshire Police do not have any fixed cameras.

Q1

Total of **all** vehicle related Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

2023 - 14515

2024 – 17611

2025 - 21419

FPNs issued between 01/01/2023 and 01/01/2024

As explained above, parking penalties are issued by the local authorities. Wiltshire Police only issue 'cause obstruction by motor vehicle/trailer'

Offence Code	Offence Description	Number of Notices Issued
RC86405	Cause unnecessary obstruction by motor vehicle	8

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	/ trailer outside of the Greater London area	
	Total	8
Total		8

FPN issued between 01/01/2024 and 01/01/2025

Offence Code	Offence Description	Number of Notices Issued
RC86405	Cause unnecessary obstruction by motor vehicle / trailer outside of the Greater London area	7
	Total	7
Total		7

FPN issued between 01/01/2025 and 01/01/2026

Offence Code	Offence Description	Number of Notices Issued
RC86405	Cause unnecessary obstruction by motor vehicle / trailer outside of the Greater London area	9
	Total	9
Total		9

Q2 and Q3 – no information held

Q4

Only Officers who attend a vehicle for example if a vehicle is pulled over or they are stationary then a notice would be given out. As detailed above, Wiltshire Police do not have any fixed cameras. Therefore, we would not have any that could not be pursued or cancelled for the reasons given. Please find below the number of crimes that relate to fake/cloned number plates.

Offence Description	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with registration and licensing documents
Reported Year	Count of Crimes
2023	2
2024	3
2025	8
2026	1
Grand Total	14

Q6. No information held

Under section 16 of our duty to provide advice and assistance, as a gesture of goodwill, please contact HMCTS, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council who may be able to assist you further, as advised above.

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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

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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