

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 29th July 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-696

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27th July 2026, concerning Motorcycle and moped theft and moped-enabled crimes.

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 Business Intelligence 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide the following information relating to your police force area for the most recent 12-month period for which data is available.

Motorcycle/Moped Theft:

The total number of recorded offences involving the theft (or unauthorised taking) of motorcycles, motorbikes and mopeds.

Suspect Age:

Where a suspect has been identified in offences relating to the theft (or unauthorised taking) of motorcycles, motorbikes and mopeds, please provide the number of identified suspects broken down by age, or by age bands if exact ages cannot be disclosed.

Moped-Enabled Crime:

The total number of recorded moped-enabled thefts (or offences flagged as moped-enabled) during 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

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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:-

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. Vehicle type is not recorded on our systems in a way that can be easily retrieved and there also is not a specific offence description for the theft of a motorcycle/motorbike/moped. Therefore, to provide this information would require manually interrogating every 'theft of a motor vehicle' occurrence recorded in the latest 12 month period (01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026). Additionally, there is not a specific offence description for moped-enabled thefts and we do not have a flag on our systems to indicate whether a theft involved a moped. To establish this information, every 'all other theft' occurrence recorded for the same 12 month period would need to be manually interrogated. Between 01.07.2025 and 30.06.2026, there were 501 'theft of a motor vehicle' occurrences and 2,739 'all other theft' occurrences. If it took a minimum of one minute to interrogate each occurrence, and any accompanying documents, to extract the requested information, it would take 54 hours to complete this task.

Note, our Business Intelligence department only work in full months therefore the period above is the most recent period that can be provided as of this response.

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

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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,

FDU Decision Maker