

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXX

Sent via email: XXX



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 04/08/26

Our ref: FOI 2026/649

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/07/26 concerning detainees arrested in Salisbury City Centre.

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:

Dear Wiltshire Police,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for detainees arrested in Salisbury city centre, covering 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026:

- (1)- Number of people arrested in Salisbury city centre and taken into police custody, broken down by Melksham Custody Suite, Swindon Custody Suite, and any other custody suite.
- (2)- Any available data on average distance or journey time from place of arrest to custody suite.
- (3)- Estimate of officer time spent transporting detainees.
- (4)- Number of complaints about transport distance or difficulties returning home, and safeguarding or welfare incidents for detainees needing assistance after release.
- (5)- Any reports, assessments, or documents since 1 January 2020 regarding the absence of a custody suite in Salisbury, detainee transport, impacts on stakeholders, or proposals for a Salisbury/Old Sarum custody suite.

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(6)- Current policy or guidance on detainees returning home after release, including available transport or travel assistance and circumstances for provision.

(7)- Number of times transport or financial assistance was provided.

(8)- Policy or guidance on releasing children, young people, vulnerable adults, detainees with mental health concerns, or those released when public transport is unavailable.

(9)- Welfare or risk-assessment procedures before releasing detainees with difficulty returning home.

Our response:

The information that you request for questions 2,3, 4, 5 and 7 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Ascertaining this information will only be possible by physically reading every call, attendance log and record made for every relevant arrest made in the force during the near year-long period you are requesting. Whilst our Crime Recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have several fields in which information pertaining to a crime, incident and arrest is recorded (and can be searched), we do not have a specific field in which we record more specific information you requested.

Finding this information will take interrogating each relevant document/record for at least 5-20 minutes (potentially more depending on complexities of specific cases) to find all relevant data relating to an incident and arrest. As there are 302 arrests made in this period (as stated below), this would take the force significantly over the 18-hour statutory time frame in place. Under the circumstances I am 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.

Please note that if one part of the request engages in a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage in a Section 12 response. The reason being is because locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations. 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 are the answers documented below –

Question 1

Using the relevant beat code (for City Centre) there were 302 arrests, 288 to Melksham and 14 to Swindon.

Question 6 and 8

Wiltshire Police follow College of Policing APP and Safer Detention/Release Principles, an individualised risk assessment is completed for each detainee, it would be this that would Keeping Wiltshire Safe

determine whether police transport is required. Transport provisions including police officer transport, taxi, train or bus which are all options available.

Question 9

As stated above for questions 6 and 8, each detainee is subject to a release risk assessment and would be supported in options for returning home if some distance is away (for example assistance in calling someone for a lift, providing public transport links).

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed on 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.

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.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

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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/>