

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 21st August 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 769

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th August 2026 concerning Counterfeiting 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.

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Business intelligence, Policy and Learning & Development Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response)

For the period 1 April 2020 to the current date, please provide the following information. Please provide the data broken down by calendar year.

If a monthly breakdown is readily available, I would also be grateful if this could be provided.

Q1. Recorded crimes

Please provide the total number of recorded crimes

for the following offences:

- Deliver a thing knowing or believing it to be a counterfeit currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81024; Home Office Classification 061/25)
- Deliver a thing knowing or believing it to be a counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81039; Home Office Classification 061/25)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- Have custody or control of a thing designed to make a counterfeit note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81033; Home Office Classification 061/27)
- Make a counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81015; Home Office Classification 061/24)
- Make a counterfeit currency note - Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81017; Home Office Classification 061/24)

Please refer to the table below – this contains details of all the crimes we have recorded for the above :-

Month	HO Code / Description			Grand Total
	061/24 61 Making counterfeit coin or note	061/25 61 Pass etc. counterfeit coin or note as genuine	061/26 61 Possess counterfeit coin or note	
Mar-22	-	1	-	1
Jun-22	-	3	-	3
Jul-22	-	1	-	1
Aug-22	-	2	-	2
Sep-22	-	1	-	1
Nov-22	-	5	-	5
Dec-22	-	1	1	2
Jan-23	-	2	-	2
Mar-23	-	1	-	1
Apr-23	-	2	-	2
Jun-23	-	1	-	1
Nov-23	-	1	-	1
Dec-23	-	1	-	1
Jan-24	-	6	-	6
Apr-24	-	2	-	2
May-24	-	4	-	4
Jun-24	-	3	-	3
Jul-24	-	-	1	1
Aug-24	-	-	1	1
Sep-24	-	2	-	2
Nov-24	-	3	-	3
Dec-24	-	3	-	3
Jan-25	-	2	1	3
Mar-25	-	16	-	16
Apr-25	-	5	-	5
May-25	-	9	1	10
Jun-25	-	6	-	6
Jul-25	-	3	-	3
Aug-25	1	1	-	2
Sep-25	-	1	-	1

Oct-25	-	9	2	11
Nov-25	-	5	-	5
Dec-25	-	4	-	4
Jan-26	1	4	-	5
Mar-26	1	11	1	13
Apr-26	-	4	1	5
May-26	-	1	1	2
Jun-26	-	2	-	2
Jul-26	-	1	-	1
Aug-26	-	1	-	1
Grand Total	3	130	10	143

Q2. Outcomes

For each offence listed above, please provide the number of cases resulting in each recorded outcome category, including:

- No Further Action (NFA)
- Charge/Summons
- Community Resolution
- Caution
- Outcome 15
- Outcome 16
- Any other recorded outcome categories

Please refer to the table below :-

Outcome Code	HO Code / Description			Grand Total
	061/24 61 Making counterfeit coin or note	061/25 61 Pass etc. counterfeit coin or note as genuine	061/26 61 Possess counterfeit coin or note	
1: Summoned/postal requisition	-	5	-	5
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	-	2	-	2
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	-	1	-	1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	-	14	1	15
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	-	1	-	1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	3	99	5	107
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition	-	1	-	1
8: Community resolution	-	-	1	1
New (Still live / open investigations)	-	7	3	10
Grand Total	3	130	10	143

Q3. Guidance

Please provide copies of, or links to, any current guidance, policy documents, operational instructions, training materials, or other material available to officers or staff regarding:

- The identification of counterfeit currency;
- The recording and investigation of counterfeit currency offences; and
- Procedures to be followed when counterfeit notes are seized or reported.

Wiltshire Police do not have any formal Policy Document covering Counterfeit Currency – No Information Held.

Whilst our PIP2 Training for Officers does include an input from our Fraud Team, none of this input involves any training in respect of Counterfeit Currency – No Information Held.

However, there is a section on our Internal Intranet accessible by all Officers and Staff that provides general guidance around the following :-

- Counterfeit Money and its relevance to the Fraud Act 2006 and the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981
- Advice to officers when dealing with suspected counterfeit currency
- Advice for retailers on counterfeit currency
- Advice on checking the authenticity of notes

The above information is exempt from disclosure however under the following :-

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

Section 31(1)(a) is a prejudice based and qualified exemption, therefore the harm (prejudice) in disclosure should be evidenced and the public interest given.

Harm

Disclosure of guidance information around the identification, policing and investigation of offences related to counterfeit currency would be of intelligence value to individuals or groups with criminal or malicious intent. The same applies regarding the disclosure of known methodologies used by police to identify potential counterfeit currency and the advice provided to retailers.

If all Forces disclosed this information, it would also enable those individuals or groups to build a national mosaic picture of the tactics used by Forces to combat counterfeit currency, which would undermine law enforcement capability. This would jeopardise public safety on both a local and national scale.

Public Interest Test

S31(1) - Factors favouring disclosure:

Disclosure would reassure the public that police forces maintain appropriate vehicles and resources to deliver services effectively. It could also demonstrate that public funds are being used responsibly and that vehicles are fit for purpose.

S31(1) - Factors favouring non-disclosure:

Releasing detailed information regarding how Wiltshire Police handle, identify and investigate counterfeit currency offences would provide criminals with a tactical advantage by revealing operational capabilities and specialist resources.

It would not only undermine law enforcement effectiveness, but also allow offenders to take steps to evade detection or destroy evidence. This would also negatively impact public safety.

Balance Test:

The public interest in transparency does not outweigh the substantial risk of harm caused by disclosure.

Publishing detailed information regarding how Wiltshire Police handle, identify and investigate counterfeit currency offences would provide criminals with a tactical advantage by revealing operational capabilities and specialist resources.

Two of the main objectives of Wiltshire Police are to uphold the law and to keep people safe. Disclosure of this detailed information would compromise both of those key objectives.

In addition, disclosure of this information would enable offenders to change or alter their tactics to avoid detection – with the likelihood that more crime would be committed accordingly.

Due to the identified risks to Law Enforcement and risks to the members of the public, disclosure of this information is not in the public interest.

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 31(1)(a): Law Enforcement

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

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny
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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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:

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