

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 08/09/2026

Our ref: **FOI 2026/750**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/08/2026 concerning chokehold.

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:

Since 01/01/2024 until the current date, has any officer within the Wiltshire police force used a chokehold on a suspect during a restraint?

If any officers have used a chokehold on someone they have arrested, has this resulted in loss of consciousness for any period of time?

If a suspect has a chokehold used on them and they lost consciousness would they be taken to the hospital to be checked over?

How many officers are currently on restricted duties due to complaints regarding excess use of force?

When police officers have been off of duty due to personal issues or mental health problems are they interviewed before they're put back on duty to assess if they're stable and able to follow carry out their duties?

Response:

The majority of the information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval, if it is even held. A chokehold is not a recognised or taught technique and therefore would not be a recorded technique on any use of force forms. If it was used it would be recorded as 'other or improvised'. To establish whether a chokehold was used Keeping Wiltshire Safe

would require manually reviewing each form and associated Body Worn Video of each incident. Since 01/01/2024 we hold 5,312 Use of Force forms.

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.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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.

I have spoken to the Police Powers Scrutiny Team and they have confirmed that if a subject has lost consciousness, regardless of the mechanism this has come about, it would be expected for them to receive medical treatment, whether by ambulance or hospital visit.

Q4 – 1

Q5 - yes

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 Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

Exemptions applied:

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.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and has 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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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
Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>