

**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 email

Date: 29th September 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 892

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th September 2026 concerning Motorcycle Theft.

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:

I am writing on behalf of the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or, for Police Scotland, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

In September 2026 MAG sent a survey on motorcycle theft to every Police and Crime Commissioner or equivalent. Several offices replied that the evidence questions are for the force to answer. This request asks the force for that information. The questions keep the survey numbering so the answers can be read alongside it. If you are already handling the survey as an FOI request referred by your Commissioner's office or equivalent, please give me that reference; I am happy for the two to be dealt with together, as long as each question below is answered.

Definitions

- "Motorcycle" means any powered two-wheeled vehicle, including mopeds and scooters. If your records use a different definition, please say what it is.
- "Motorcycle theft" means any recorded offence of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (or the equivalent classification in Scotland or Northern Ireland) where the vehicle was a motorcycle.
- "2023" and "2025" mean the calendar years 1 January to 31 December.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Questions

Q2. Motorcycle theft has no Home Office crime classification of its own and is recorded within the general Theft of a Motor Vehicle category. Does your force use any marker, tag, qualifier, internal code or vehicle-type field that allows motorcycle thefts to be identified separately within that category? If so, please describe it and state whether completing it is mandatory.

Q3. The number of motorcycles reported stolen in your force area in 2023 and in 2025. If these figures cannot be produced from your crime recording system without a manual review of individual records, please say so, and say what would be needed to make it possible.

Q4. Details of any operations, dedicated resourcing or cross-force intelligence-sharing arrangements aimed specifically at motorcycle theft between 1 January 2023 and the date of this request, with approximate dates.

Q5. The number of motorcycle theft offences in which a suspect was identified, in 2023 and in 2025.

Q6. Of the offences in Q5, the number that resulted in a charge for theft, handling stolen goods or conspiracy, rather than taking without consent alone, in 2023 and in 2025.

Q7. The number of stolen motorcycles recovered in 2023 and in 2025. If these figures cannot be produced without a manual review of individual records, please say so.

Q8. A copy of any written policy, protocol or guidance on how officers or the control room respond to a live tracker or GPS activation alert on a stolen motorcycle. If there is no motorcycle-specific version, please provide the one that covers stolen vehicles generally.

Q9. The number of times since 29 June 2026 an officer has authorised a search under section 26A of the Theft Act 1968 (inserted by section 171 of the Crime and Policing Act 2026) in relation to a stolen motorcycle, and a copy of any written policy or training material on the use of that power. If this power does not apply in your jurisdiction, please say so.

Q11. Details of any engagement your force has had on secure motorcycle parking provision since 1 January 2023, with a local authority or otherwise, for example advice from Designing Out Crime Officers or involvement in Park Mark/Safer Parking assessments covering motorcycle parking. If no central record is held, please say so.

How to answer

Please answer each question under its number, giving figures as 2023 / 2025. Where information is not held, please say so against that question rather than leaving it out. A statement that a figure cannot be produced without a manual review of records is a complete answer to that part of the question.

If answering the whole request would exceed the cost limit, please tell me, under your duty to advise and assist, which questions can be answered within it. My order of priority is Q2, Q3, Q7, Q8, Q9, Q5, Q6, Q4, Q11.

I am happy to receive the information electronically.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request (namely questions 2,3,5, 6,7 and 9) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Wiltshire Police record crimes in accordance with current Home Office crime recording guidelines. As you have already stated, there is currently no specific HO crime code for the recording of Thefts of Motorcycles. Any crimes of this nature would be recorded under one of the following crime codes under Vehicle Offences :-

048/01	Theft of a motor vehicle
130/01	Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle
037/02	Aggravated vehicle taking
131/03	Aggravated vehicle taking

For the two years you mention, Wiltshire Police have recorded 561 offences in 2023 and 531 in 2025.

Whilst our crime recording systems are fairly sophisticated and have a number of fields in which specific detail about a crime are recorded (such as victim name, suspect date of birth, building type and so on) which can then – theoretically – be used to run searches against, we do not have dedicated fields in which we record the following :-

- a) What type of item has been stolen (eg motorcycle)
- b) The value of that item
- c) Whether that item has been recovered or not
- d) Whether a suspect has been identified or not
- e) Whether anyone has been charged for theft, handling stolen goods or conspiracy specifically
- f) Whether an officer has specifically authorised a search under section 26A of the Theft Act 1968 (inserted by section 171 of the Crime and Policing Act 2026) in relation to a stolen motorcycle)

If held, the above information would ONLY be held in the narrative of the occurrence log, or in associated documents such as statements, records of interview and/or other supporting documentation – hence ONLY available by means of a manual search of all associated crime records for Vehicle Theft / Taking.

Even allowing a very conservative 3 minutes per record to undertake manual searches of records, this would take approximately 55 man-hours to undertake.

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.

Please also note that 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.

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 am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

Questions 4 and 11

It is both common knowledge and widely accepted that Police Forces share Intelligence internally and at both Regional and National level on an ongoing basis in respect of criminal activity, organised crime group activity and so on.

Searches for any information related to details of any operations, dedicated resourcing or cross-force intelligence-sharing arrangements aimed specifically at motorcycle theft OR details of any engagement our force has had on secure motorcycle parking provisions with a local authority or otherwise would necessitate liaison with numerous Teams and individuals around the Force to assess anything held, adding even more potential cost into the response of this FOI request. I should also advise that the disclosure of ANY of this information is likely to be exempt under a

number of different provisions of The Act such as Section 31 (Law Enforcement), Section 24 (National Security) and Section 40 (Personal Information) and so on.

Question 8

The only formal Force Policy currently in existence that mentions GPS tracking is the Electronic Monitoring Policy which relates to the ankle-tagging of suspects currently released on bail. I have liaised with our Call Centre Operations Manager who has confirmed there is currently no specific operational guidance in place in the event of live tracker / GPS activation in cases of Motorcycle Thefts – **No Information Held**.

Question 9

Officers authorising a search under section 26A of the Theft Act 1968 (inserted by section 171 of the Crime and Policing Act 2026) in relation to a stolen motorcycle would do so in accordance with COP (College of Policing) guidance and Authorised Professional Practice :-

www.college.police.uk/guidance

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 2,3,5,6,7 and 9 to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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 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.

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