



WILTSHIRE POLICE

XXX
Sent via email: XXX

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

Date: 01/09/26

Ref: FOI 2026/732

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/08/26 concerning DNA-17 analysis returned a mixed or complex profile requiring further probabilistic genotyping or interpretive analysis.

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:

Please provide the following information, if possible in table form, for each of the last three calendar years (2023, 2024 and 2025):

1. The number of investigations, broken down by offence type, in which DNA-17 analysis returned a mixed or complex profile requiring further probabilistic genotyping or interpretive analysis to identify a potential offender.
2. (In the next column if possible) the number of those in which the decision was taken not to commission the further analysis on grounds of cost.
3. (In the next column if possible) the number of those investigations that were subsequently closed where the stated or recorded reason included the cost of further DNA analysis.

Additionally, please release any current internal guidance, policy documents, or force directives relating to thresholds or criteria (e.g. type of offence) for commissioning further DNA analysis following an initial DNA-17 result which shows a mixed or complex profile.

Our response:

The information that you request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

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Ascertaining this information would only be possible by physically reading every relevant record/investigation carried out by the force during the 3-year period you are requesting. This is because the force does not record laboratory results separately, all results are reported by the laboratory and provided in PDF format. Specific results are not recorded where they can be extracted conveniently. To extract the data the force would have to heavily research and cross reference every individual investigation and laboratory result for the last 3 years. For the period you request there are thousands of records, therefore this process would take a considerable number of hours for the force to interrogate, review and collate the relevant information.

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 a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage 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 2

The decision to authorise DNA testing is not based on cost but on whether the results will be of evidential value or will further the investigation. Therefore, the force cannot supply any data as there is no monetary threshold, and the force does not record non authorisations.

Question 3

Please refer to the above answer in question 2. Additionally, it is a decision for the OIC and reviewing Sergeant to NFA (No Further Action) a case.

Question 4

No information held.

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, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this 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.

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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

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
Telephone 101



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