

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 1st October 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-914

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30th September 2026, concerning closure orders.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Business Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am **not** obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information separately for each calendar year: 2023, 2024 and 2025, covering 1 January to 31 December inclusive.

Section 1: Closure orders

For closure orders granted by magistrates' courts under section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, following applications made by your force, please provide:

1. The total number of orders granted in each year.
2. Of those orders, the number relating to:
 - Residential premises/dwellings.
 - Non-residential premises.
 - Premises whose type is unknown or not recorded.

Please count each initial section 80 order once, according to the date the court granted it. Include full and partial closure orders. Exclude closure notices, temporary orders under section 81, extensions under section 82, and unsuccessful applications.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

I am requesting order counts rather than unique properties.

For the premises-type breakdown, please use existing recorded classifications. I don't require manual assessment of property type from narrative reports. If this breakdown can't be supplied on that basis, please provide the annual totals and explain that the premises-type breakdown is unavailable.

Please briefly identify the classifications treated as residential and flag any missing coverage or departures from these definitions, including whether your figures also include council-led orders.

Section 2: Premises-related recorded offences

Please provide the number of police-recorded offences in each year, separately for:

1. Production or being concerned in the production of cannabis - Home Office offence code 092/21.
2. Keeping a brothel used for prostitution - Home Office offence code 024/19.
3. Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes under section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Please provide separate counts for each relevant offence classification, including the codes and titles used.

Please use the date the crime was recorded, exclude crimes subsequently cancelled, and use the offence classification held at the time of extraction.

For each offence classification and year, please provide:

- The total recorded-offence count.
- A breakdown by the existing recorded location/premises-type field, where available, retaining your existing category labels and including unknown or not-recorded locations.

I don't require manual review of narrative reports or case files to establish location type. If no suitable structured field is available, please provide the annual offence totals and confirm that the location-type breakdown is unavailable.

I'm requesting recorded-offence counts, rather than arrests, convictions, raids, suspects or unique properties.

Our response:

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held - namely the number of closure orders secured - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2). We do not have a way to automatically identify if a crime or incident occurrence related to a closure order. The only way to establish this would be manually reviewing every record between 2023 and 2025, of which there were in excess of 273,000.

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.

Please note:

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.

Forces may use different recording systems, therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

FDU Decision Maker