WILTSHIRE POLICE

XXXX – By email

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

Date 2nd November 2026 **Our Ref** FOI 2026-1002

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22nd October, concerning Christmas related incidents.

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 Unit 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:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding recorded crime within your police force area.

Please could you provide the following information:

1. The total number of crimes recorded each month from January 2021 to the most recent available month in 2026.
2. Where available, a breakdown of these figures by offence category, such as theft, criminal damage, burglary and other recorded crime types.
3. If available, the number of Christmas-related crimes recorded during this period, particularly incidents involving the theft of or criminal damage to Christmas trees, festive lights and decorations.

For the third question, I appreciate that Christmas-related incidents may not be recorded separately. Therefore, I would be grateful for any relevant information that can be readily retrieved from your existing systems, without requiring a manual review of individual crime reports.

Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

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.

The information you are requesting – specifically regarding question 3 – is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Unfortunately, we do not have a way to filter for this information automatically and so in order to determine how many crimes were Christmas related within the time frame requested, we would be required to manually interrogate every crime log, of which there are over 24,0000.

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.

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 with is documented below:

Q1&2:

Reported Month Year / Crime sub group	All Other Theft Offences	Arson	Bicycle Theft	Burglary Business And Community	Burglary Residential	Criminal Damage	Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Illegal Driving	Homicide	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	Other Sexual Offences	Possession Of Drugs	Possession Of Weapons
Jan-2021	176	6	20	25	91	320	-	-	48	70	72	29
Feb-2021	186	8	24	31	92	324	1	-	64	69	81	23
Mar-2021	234	11	38	36	78	366	-	-	65	76	77	23
Apr-2021	216	14	60	38	67	435	-	-	64	82	89	22
May-2021	227	9	53	53	68	462	-	-	70	107	90	27
Jun-2021	250	11	62	47	91	458	-	-	70	128	80	30
Jul-2021	240	7	44	37	68	453	-	-	50	94	92	33
Aug-2021	264	7	65	58	80	419	-	-	44	95	86	40
Sep-2021	269	16	52	34	124	407	-	1	67	93	89	31
Oct-2021	253	8	73	63	106	466	-	1	68	136	81	21
Nov-2021	271	17	77	49	113	434	-	-	61	96	72	38
Dec-2021	228	8	44	45	121	421	1	1	42	92	57	23
Jan-2022	301	10	53	50	106	476	3	1	69	97	64	27
Feb-2022	204	11	56	51	84	362	-	1	47	97	71	28
Mar-2022	299	6	44	48	104	447	-	-	57	111	76	44
Apr-2022	285	12	35	44	127	413	1	-	57	99	81	40
May-2022	292	18	40	75	105	423	-	-	71	124	101	49
Jun-2022	299	15	43	59	137	402	2	-	58	118	58	33
Jul-2022	327	25	71	54	99	418	-	1	80	127	95	41
Aug-2022	306	16	119	51	70	438	-	-	65	112	72	32

Sep-2022	254	10	80	64	92	417	-	1	82	109	86	41
Oct-2022	301	6	73	92	103	408	-	-	87	111	76	32
Nov-2022	272	9	51	58	133	391	1	-	88	108	83	33
Dec-2022	255	7	34	61	75	356	1	1	78	110	76	30
Jan-2023	240	7	41	58	115	380	-	-	88	105	78	25
Feb-2023	214	10	47	57	101	391	-	-	64	82	65	19
Mar-2023	288	6	52	63	103	393	-	-	67	110	64	50
Apr-2023	274	8	41	57	1	399	2	-	68	100	71	33
May-2023	263	9	64	57	-	348	3	-	81	101	67	30
Jun-2023	215	18	68	62	-	409	2	-	67	125	50	35
Jul-2023	249	13	62	55	-	412	1	1	72	104	67	52
Aug-2023	294	13	57	57	-	401	1	1	66	95	84	40
Sep-2023	275	6	64	66	-	403	2	-	67	126	63	54
Oct-2023	234	14	45	84	-	390	3	-	63	127	72	23
Nov-2023	249	5	50	48	-	336	4	-	61	116	60	27
Dec-2023	182	4	42	59	-	375	2	-	50	76	68	32
Jan-2024	209	13	23	92	-	335	1	-	82	105	58	33
Feb-2024	194	6	15	50	-	323	1	1	75	94	64	32
Mar-2024	223	7	35	56	-	373	2	-	52	96	94	27
Apr-2024	220	12	35	65	-	344	1	-	73	107	56	22
May-2024	232	8	36	58	-	398	-	-	72	109	86	38
Jun-2024	239	6	48	52	-	366	1	-	84	135	75	42
Jul-2024	264	14	50	44	-	341	-	1	69	124	73	29
Aug-2024	217	10	41	45	-	318	2	1	80	108	66	28
Sep-2024	196	13	48	45	-	308	3	-	93	116	57	23
Oct-2024	215	14	35	41	-	343	1	-	65	123	70	40
Nov-2024	221	16	26	43	-	352	2	-	69	115	63	31
Dec-2024	215	6	24	51	-	285	1	-	99	128	93	33

Jan-2025	207	8	28	48	-	312	-	-	83	128	70	32
Feb-2025	195	6	31	35	-	287	3	-	67	128	66	33
Mar-2025	242	12	50	51	-	367	3	-	108	122	102	37
Apr-2025	226	26	53	42	-	364	1	-	111	137	91	41
May-2025	239	20	66	46	-	384	5	1	114	128	81	40
Jun-2025	245	18	47	36	-	381	1	-	117	140	76	36
Jul-2025	261	22	54	46	-	371	3	1	86	155	97	40
Aug-2025	225	25	34	63	-	338	-	-	116	101	82	43
Sep-2025	233	10	45	43	-	324	2	1	81	143	81	30
Oct-2025	225	10	49	49	-	322	-	-	92	146	100	36
Nov-2025	202	9	28	38	-	384	1	1	101	138	88	35
Dec-2025	211	7	23	51	-	339	1	1	102	130	105	33
Jan-2026	198	6	31	45	-	307	2	1	96	131	74	40
Feb-2026	194	7	35	38	-	334	1	-	93	124	83	43
Mar-2026	253	10	35	41	-	359	2	-	84	148	88	49
Apr-2026	251	17	37	48	-	384	1	1	79	120	76	32
May-2026	248	20	25	44	-	363	2	-	75	162	91	40
Jun-2026	225	14	46	43	-	356	2	-	84	163	73	41
Jul-2026	262	20	35	56	-	380	-	-	92	150	56	44
Aug-2026	222	34	43	43	-	357	-	1	71	188	67	36
Sep-2026	227	14	43	81	-	342	-	-	100	161	63	27
Total	16622	820	3198	3575	2654	25994	75	21	5231	8031	5279	2356

Reported Month Year / Crime sub group	Public Order Offences	Rape	Residential Burglary Of A Home	Residential Burglary Of Unconnected Building	Robbery	Shoplifting	Stalking And Harassment	Theft From The Person	Trafficking Of Drugs	Vehicle Offences	Violence With Injury	Violence Without Injury
Jan-2021	223	39	-	-	28	163	369	8	26	136	349	406
Feb-2021	212	36	-	-	30	163	300	8	29	114	321	434
Mar-2021	282	47	-	-	22	214	381	17	24	145	420	488
Apr-2021	296	27	-	-	37	212	315	6	29	217	434	550
May-2021	323	60	-	-	19	229	347	16	26	190	566	607
Jun-2021	347	45	-	-	32	225	338	19	27	150	590	647
Jul-2021	385	60	-	-	35	183	354	13	27	131	576	689
Aug-2021	343	52	-	-	17	204	348	13	23	149	564	594
Sep-2021	380	43	-	-	34	209	341	15	27	172	539	664
Oct-2021	350	43	-	-	19	227	345	16	17	158	498	658
Nov-2021	303	43	-	-	21	273	359	18	19	208	517	640
Dec-2021	256	59	-	-	18	210	340	25	15	161	512	568
Jan-2022	300	62	-	-	21	216	356	13	22	165	497	555
Feb-2022	294	50	-	-	18	238	329	23	17	148	437	523
Mar-2022	365	46	-	-	32	226	377	18	25	164	538	577
Apr-2022	366	43	-	-	23	229	353	14	20	185	536	584
May-2022	370	59	-	-	38	288	369	24	18	170	587	671
Jun-2022	382	60	-	-	38	235	351	30	15	219	599	700
Jul-2022	389	58	-	-	36	281	390	16	17	177	670	725
Aug-2022	383	54	-	-	34	277	365	30	8	189	535	640

Sep-2022	347	48	-	-	30	244	351	25	17	209	545	614
Oct-2022	355	53	-	-	38	303	291	22	18	241	549	657
Nov-2022	312	57	-	-	31	333	353	20	12	198	523	673
Dec-2022	238	44	-	-	20	255	317	32	15	191	442	601
Jan-2023	295	46	-	-	24	323	410	16	13	230	443	578
Feb-2023	290	56	-	-	27	317	343	19	16	160	449	564
Mar-2023	297	60	-	-	30	403	382	17	20	199	516	694
Apr-2023	306	48	50	35	23	360	357	20	18	173	487	588
May-2023	331	60	67	26	24	392	297	19	21	134	556	654
Jun-2023	301	52	40	38	37	305	329	20	18	157	569	585
Jul-2023	284	47	45	45	27	442	334	19	23	165	534	561
Aug-2023	313	53	39	32	22	368	312	25	19	188	474	529
Sep-2023	331	61	40	18	32	355	340	34	22	254	529	598
Oct-2023	316	55	40	23	25	332	319	20	28	198	444	536
Nov-2023	318	58	47	44	17	344	335	35	23	223	390	569
Dec-2023	243	53	53	50	15	267	313	33	9	216	445	587
Jan-2024	232	54	57	52	15	285	321	28	9	245	384	536
Feb-2024	279	61	28	28	18	258	289	25	28	176	436	525
Mar-2024	245	63	41	39	17	272	277	15	19	167	441	598
Apr-2024	274	51	37	32	12	331	299	14	27	241	406	529
May-2024	362	53	58	26	23	328	370	17	17	175	534	642
Jun-2024	322	63	59	49	17	294	336	17	15	198	542	581
Jul-2024	314	59	48	40	16	351	373	17	9	160	519	575
Aug-2024	338	64	43	29	24	293	336	15	12	175	449	603
Sep-2024	236	66	51	29	23	342	323	12	22	189	478	527
Oct-2024	282	53	56	44	20	348	377	12	48	226	471	600
Nov-2024	302	62	48	33	12	332	314	23	54	165	418	512
Dec-2024	274	65	49	31	19	259	325	14	36	157	456	589

Jan-2025	294	55	61	33	23	300	380	17	39	140	391	564
Feb-2025	317	44	55	41	13	306	310	14	22	138	440	563
Mar-2025	333	61	47	50	11	375	350	23	28	134	524	635
Apr-2025	344	64	52	47	26	326	340	21	45	133	463	599
May-2025	386	67	52	44	28	366	383	18	26	179	496	661
Jun-2025	417	69	48	35	22	365	412	17	35	136	531	634
Jul-2025	409	86	52	40	21	419	427	31	28	146	580	669
Aug-2025	403	58	64	47	36	298	361	18	26	98	490	634
Sep-2025	335	66	42	45	21	283	365	16	22	167	518	622
Oct-2025	331	72	34	44	18	350	404	19	22	127	501	638
Nov-2025	277	62	50	46	28	338	376	14	41	169	470	615
Dec-2025	247	65	44	63	21	318	279	16	29	147	431	633
Jan-2026	283	68	43	47	15	296	360	19	18	200	437	615
Feb-2026	286	60	51	49	22	281	357	14	34	168	415	568
Mar-2026	375	64	46	31	34	362	401	19	31	163	445	695
Apr-2026	387	48	52	39	35	333	427	9	17	178	521	664
May-2026	387	64	82	51	39	285	436	13	27	154	536	710
Jun-2026	398	53	55	30	31	321	457	25	19	112	530	690
Jul-2026	435	59	67	28	23	347	439	32	22	146	541	784
Aug-2026	399	47	62	25	27	429	331	27	19	144	431	690
Sep-2026	327	44	50	26	35	362	399	22	34	148	447	645
Total	22256	3827	2105	1604	1719	20598	24344	1331	1603	11885	33852	41853

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

(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.

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

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

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

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

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 to contact them, please visit https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/