WILTSHIRE POLICE

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: 17th November 2026 Your ref**:** FOI Our ref: FOI 2026 / 1068

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th November 2026 concerning EMS Breaches.

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:

REQUEST 1:

What would you like to know?: Please provide the following information concerning notifications received by your force from the Electronic Monitoring Service (EMS) about alleged breaches of electronically monitored court bail conditions, for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026. If information for this full period is unavailable, please provide the most recent 12-month period held and specify the dates.

1. The total number of notifications received.

2. If recorded and readily retrievable, a breakdown by notification type, including:

- Entry into or presence within an exclusion zone;

- Breach of an electronically monitored curfew;

- Damage to, removal of or interference with monitoring equipment;

- Failure to charge or maintain monitoring equipment;

- Failure to attend or cooperate with equipment installation or maintenance;

- Other notification types.

If different categories are used, please provide those categories and their corresponding figures.

3. The number of notifications for which a risk assessment was recorded as having been completed. If initial and subsequent risk assessments are distinguished, please provide separate figures where available.

4. The number of notifications associated with each of the following recorded decisions or actions:

- No further action;

- Further enquiries or investigation;

- Arrest;

- Other enforcement action;

- Decision pending or outcome not recorded.

If multiple actions can be recorded against one notification, please clarify this. If only final outcomes are recorded, please provide those figures instead.

5. The number of notifications for which a rationale or explanation for the enforcement decision was recorded.

If a rationale is not recorded in a dedicated field, please indicate whether it is recorded elsewhere in the relevant case or incident records.

Where possible, please clarify whether figures count notifications, cases or unique individuals. I am seeking aggregate, anonymised information only, not personal data.

REQUEST 2:

What would you like to know?: Please provide the following information concerning your force's handling of notifications received from the Electronic Monitoring Service (EMS) about alleged breaches of electronically monitored court bail conditions, for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026. If information for this full period is unavailable, please provide the most recent 12-month period held and specify the dates.

1. The number of notifications for which your force recorded that it had informed the EMS of its enforcement decision or action taken. If the type of update is recorded, please provide a breakdown where readily retrievable.

2. Victim notification:

- The number of notifications for which the victim was recorded as having been informed that an alleged breach had been reported;

- The number for which the victim was recorded as having been informed of the police decision or action taken;

- The number for which no victim notification was recorded.

If these are not recorded as separate stages, please explain how victim notification is recorded and provide the closest available information.

3. Please confirm whether your force records when an electronically monitored court bail breach notification relates to a case involving:

- Domestic abuse;

- Stalking or harassment;

- A child or young person.

If this information is held and readily retrievable, please provide aggregate figures for the requested period. For notifications involving children or young people, please also provide the number of cases in which a safeguarding referral was recorded, where available.

4. Repeat notifications:

- The number of individuals who were the subject of more than one EMS court bail breach notification during the requested period;

- The total number of notifications associated with those individuals.

If your force cannot identify or link repeat notifications, please indicate this.

Where possible, please clarify whether figures count notifications, cases or unique individuals. I am seeking aggregate, anonymised information only, not personal data.

REQUEST 3:

What would you like to know?: Please provide the following information about your force's policies, procedures and systems for handling notifications from the Electronic Monitoring Service (EMS) concerning alleged breaches of electronically monitored court bail conditions.

1. Copies of your force's current policies, standard operating procedures or guidance for officers and staff dealing with these notifications.

I am particularly interested in guidance covering:

- Receipt and recording of EMS notifications;

- Risk assessment and safeguarding;

- Enforcement decisions and recording the rationale for those decisions;

- Communication with the EMS;

- Victim notification;

- Handling repeated notifications;

- Management oversight and performance monitoring.

If any relevant policy or guidance has been introduced or substantially revised since 29 October 2026, please provide the latest version and identify when it was introduced or revised.

2. Please identify the system or systems used by your force to record and manage these notifications.

Please confirm whether they contain dedicated fields or recording mechanisms for:

- Risk assessments;

- Enforcement decisions and actions;

- Rationale for enforcement decisions;

- Updates to the EMS;

- Victim notifications;

- Safeguarding considerations;

- Repeat notifications.

3. Please provide copies of any current guidance or procedures governing supervisory oversight, management review or performance monitoring of the force's response to these notifications, where held.

I am seeking existing recorded information and documents only, not asking your force to create new information or undertake a new analysis.

REQUEST 4:

What would you like to know?: Please treat these questions as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The requested period is 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026, unless otherwise specified above.

If information for the full period is unavailable, please provide the most recent 12-month period held and specify the dates covered.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the whole of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime (NICHE) and call recording (STORM) system(s) are fairly sophisticated and contain a number of specific fields in which certain aspects of a crime or incident are recorded (and which can then theoretically be searched against), we do not have any dedicated fields in which we record information of this kind related to EMS breaches.

If we are notified of a potential EMS breach, the Duty Inspector is advised in the first instance who undertakes an initial risk assessment to determine the appropriate course of action which could be one of the following :-

a) an immediate attempt at an arrest (in which case the relevant OIC would be notified and an appropriate entry put on the relevant crime occurrence log
b) a new STORM log is created for appropriate handling in slower time

Our Niche system currently contains no dedicated field in which it is possible to record that an EMS breach has occurred. This – and any subsequent action taken etc – would only be recorded in the body of the occurrence summary of a given offence.

To locate the information required, it would necessitate every crime record being reviewed for the time period you require to try and locate any information relevant to your request.

Given that in any given year, Wiltshire Police record in excess of 40,000 individual crimes – and allowing a very conservative 5 minutes per record to review each of these – I estimate that simply looking at the NICHE records aspect of this request would take well in excess of 3,000 man-hours to complete.

Under the circumstances, therefore, 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.

With regards to the STORM Log elements of this request, whilst all STORM Logs are assigned an opening code on creation, we do not have an opening code for EMS notifications or potential breaches of this nature.

EMS breaches could be assigned to a number of different opening codes – “Send To” , “Info / Obs”, “Other” , “S18 warrant / arrest” or “Admin”.

Looking at the number of STORM logs that have been assigned to these opening codes so far this calendar year, this totals 53,148 records – a potential annual figure of 55,400 records.

Again, to locate any of these that related to EMS breaches would necessitate each and every one being read to see if it falls within your criteria or not.

Even allowing a very conservative 3 minutes per record to review each of these, I estimate that simply looking at the STORM log element of this request would take more than 4,500 man-hours to complete.

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.

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 simply 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