WILTSHIRE POLICE

XXXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 16th November 2026 **Our Ref** FOI 2026-1070

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th November 2026, concerning Asian gold 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.

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:

I would like to request:

- How many incidents of "Asian gold theft" have taken place/have you dealt with in your jurisdiction, since January 2025?

  To clarify: "Asian gold theft" is the theft of gold from Asian families. Criminals are targeting Asian families knowing that many have gold, for cultural reasons.

- Please could you specify the number of incidents, and the value of gold stolen, if available?

- Please could you break down the incidents by year, i.e. 2025, 2026?

N.B. I previously made a request for data for 2021-2024 - this is an updated request for years 2025 and 2026.

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 is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. As there is no specific offence for Asian gold thefts, using the aggrieved's self-defined race as 'Asian', each burglary, theft and robbery occurrence would need to be manually interrogated to establish if Asian gold was stolen. Within the period requested, there were 225 occurrences. Our Business Intelligence department have estimated it would take a minimum of around 5 minutes to check each occurrence, which equates to just over 18 hours to complete this task, and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

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.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you to refine your request to a more manageable level. If the timeframe requested is reduced, or specific crime codes provided, this may allow for the request to be completed within the time obligation son the authority to comply. **Note - exemptions may still be engaged even if the request is refined.**

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