WILTSHIRE POLICE

XXXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 16th November 2026 **Our Ref** FOI 2026-806

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1st September 2026, concerning Various incident statistics: missing persons, water rescue, Police supporting ambulance & Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

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 and Drone Team 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:

All information requested for the periods; January 1 2022 to January 1 2023 January 1 2023 to January 1 2024 January 1 2024 to January 1 2025 January 1 2025 to January 1 2026 Information required as follows;

Incidents involving missing persons

Applicant clarification received 18.10 - I am looking for the number of misspers, not crimes committed by misspers

- Number of Incidents Responded to
- Resources Utilised within your service per incident
- Resources Utilised from other sources per incident, please state if Voluntary Service, Government Agency or Private Enterprise
- Duration on scene
- Incident outcomes – Successful or Negative
- Age demographics of reported missing persons

- Ambulance Required – Yes or No
- Response time of Ambulance
- Resource from initial call to arrival on scene

Water Rescue Operations

- Number of Incidents Responded to
- Resources Utilised within your service per incident
- Resources Utilised from other sources per incident, please state if Voluntary Service, Government Agency or Private Enterprise
- Incident outcomes – Successful or Negative
- Age demographics of reported persons in water
- Duration on scene
- Ambulance Required – Yes or No
- Response time of Ambulance
- Resource from initial call to arrival on scene

Police support to Ambulance Service incidents

- Number of Incidents where Police Service Support has been required
- Type of incident i.e. Fire, extrication, forced entry, violent activity etc
- Duration on scene
- Number of personnel engaged per incident
- Resources deployed to incident
- Resources Utilised from other sources per incident, please state if Voluntary Service, Government Agency or Private Enterprise

UAV/UVP (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle/Unmanned Vehicle Platform)

- Number of Incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed
- Types of incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed
- Number of incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed by your agency as own assets
- Number of incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed by outside agencies/companies/volunteers in support of your agencies operations, please state if the source is other agency, company (Private Enterprise) or volunteer service.

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 in relation to missing persons - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2). Whilst some of the requested information - namely the number of incidents responded to and the age demographics (under / over 18) - can be provided, there is not a way to establish whether the remaining information requested is held. Wiltshire Police would have to manually interrogate each missing persons episode to establish if the remaining requested information is held. In addition, some of the information would not be Wiltshire Police information (i.e. ambulance response time).

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. The final section in relation to UAV / UVPs may be obtainable within the time obligations, however this would need to be submitted as a new FOI request. **Note - exemptions may still be engaged even if the request is refined.**

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:

All information requested for the periods; January 1 2022 to January 1 2023 January 1 2023 to January 1 2024 January 1 2024 to January 1 2025 January 1 2025 to January 1 2026 Information required as follows;

Incidents involving missing persons

- Number of Incidents Responded to
- Resources Utilised within your service per incident
- Resources Utilised from other sources per incident, please state if Voluntary Service, Government Agency or Private Enterprise
- Duration on scene
- Incident outcomes – Successful or Negative

- Age demographics of reported missing persons
- Ambulance Required – Yes or No
- Response time of Ambulance
- Resource from initial call to arrival on scene

Reported Year	18 and Over	Under 18	Grand Total
2022	921	1342	2263
2023	792	1726	2518
2024	581	1193	1774
2025	685	1277	1962
Grand Total	2979	5538	8517

Water Rescue Operations

- Number of Incidents Responded to
- Resources Utilised within your service per incident
- Resources Utilised from other sources per incident, please state if Voluntary Service, Government Agency or Private Enterprise
- Incident outcomes – Successful or Negative
- Age demographics of reported persons in water
- Duration on scene
- Ambulance Required – Yes or No
- Response time of Ambulance
- Resource from initial call to arrival on scene

No information held - This would not be Wiltshire Police data, therefore we would advise you contact the RNLI, Coastguard and/or the Ambulance Service for this data.

Police support to Ambulance Service incidents

- Number of Incidents where Police Service Support has been required
- Type of incident i.e. Fire, extrication, forced entry, violent activity etc
- Duration on scene
- Number of personnel engaged per incident
- Resources deployed to incident
- Resources Utilised from other sources per incident, please state if Voluntary Service, Government Agency or Private Enterprise

No information held - This would not be Wiltshire Police data, therefore we would advise you contact the Ambulance Service for this data.

UAV/UVP (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle/Unmanned Vehicle Platform)

- Number of Incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed
- Types of incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed
- Number of incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed by your agency as own assets
- Number of incidents where UAV/UVP were deployed by outside agencies/companies/volunteers in support of your agencies operations, please state if the source is other agency, company (Private Enterprise) or volunteer service.

This information may be obtainable within the time obligations, however this would need to be submitted as a new FOI request. 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