

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th October 2022 concerning the average number of ROAs a month.

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.

You wrote:

I am looking to request information on the amount of DSARs Wiltshire Police receive in the average month and the size of these requests.

Response:

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. We currently do not have the capability within our systems to be able to determine the size of each Right of Access Request that the Force receives. Every request made is so vastly different, as a result it simply would not be possible to determine the size of these requests without manually looking into each individual request. Even then we would then be looking to create data to put these requests into possible “categories”, which I must inform you we are not obliged to create data to answer a Freedom of Information Request.

With regards to the “average” number of requests received per month, Wiltshire Police can confirm we have no information held, we do not record the average amount of Right of Access Requests received per month and again are not obliged to create data to answer a request.

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.

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 am able to provide you are the answers documented below:

The total number of Right of Access Request received by the Force per month since January 2022 – please note we have only put figures in so far up to September 2022.

Month	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sept 22
Volume	43	36	46	40	47	40	36	51	37

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 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](#).