

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 concerning police support volunteers.

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 requester. 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, searches were conducted within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Wiltshire Police's People Services department. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held in part by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Your request has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

1. How many police support volunteers were registered with your force as at 1 January 2014?

As at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 there were 59 police support volunteers registered with Wiltshire Police. Please note that these volunteers are not necessarily active.

2. What was the total number of hours worked by all police support volunteers in your force for the last recorded 12 month period?
3. Please list each different role description for your police support volunteers, and the department in which each role is deployed.

This type of information is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval; to ascertain this data would have to involve a manual search of departmental records which in any case may not routinely record the hours worked or a role description. 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. Although excess costs removes the authority's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information appertaining to police support volunteers before it was realised that the fees limitation 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.

4. What was the total cost to your force of deploying police support volunteers over the last recorded 12-month period?

Information not held. Costs incurred in the deploying of police support volunteers are considered business as usual and are not recorded separately.

5. Please describe any plans to increase the number of, or change/add to the role descriptions for, police support volunteers in your area.

This information is intended for future publication pending discussion with relevant staff associations. It is not in the public interest to release this information until such time that discussions have taken place as any changes may affect current staff and volunteers.

Exemptions applied:

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.

Section 22: Information intended for future publication

- (1) Section (1)(a) does not oblige a public authority to disclose information that is intended to be intended for publication by the authority, or any other person, at some future date.

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.