

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 29th September 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 776

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th September 2021 concerning Abuse linked to faith.

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 – having consulted our Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

For each calendar year 2018, 2019 and 2020 and for the period 1st January 2021 to 28th September 2021, please could you tell me:

- 1) The number of cases of abuse linked to faith or belief that have been reported
- 2) A brief description of each case and the outcome if known (i.e. charge/summons, caution, etc)

For clarity, abuse linked to faith or belief is defined here by the Metropolitan Police - <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/faith-based-abuse> - and here in the government's national action plan - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175437/Action_Plan_-_Abuse_linked_to_Faith_or_Belief.pdf

Our response:

All crimes that are recorded are linked to a set of designated Crime Classification Codes or HO Crime Codes / Classifications for reporting purposes. There are no current Crime Classification Codes that exist to specifically record cases of such abuse of children linked to faith or belief.



In order to provide you with what we believe is the nearest data to what you are particularly looking for here, we have analysed our crime database as follows :-

For all the Crimes recorded for the time period you require :-

Crime Group	All offences identified as either Violence Against the Person OR Public Order Offences
NICL Qualifier	Flagged on our system as "Prejudice-Religion"
Victim Age	Recorded as Under 18 (child)

This has produced 11 results, where the recorded offences have been subsequently reviewed. Not one of these results meets any of the criterias identified in the Child Abuse / Faith or Belief-based offences you have identified in the links provided.

Our responses to your questions are therefore :-

Question 1

There have been NO instances of abuse linked to faith or belief that meet you criteria in the time period you have specified.

Question 2

Not applicable – by virtue of our answer to Q1.

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 Fol 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