

**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 email

Date: 10th November 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 934

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th November 2021 concerning crimes against men originating from meeting people via mobile dating apps.

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 I am **still** not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Several months ago, I sent a request for FOI regarding Crimes associated with dating apps and online websites, that I require for a PhD study into the rise of such crimes.

I was declined the requested information because my search request was too broad and would have taken you too much time / expense. Despite, however, some forces still being able to retrieve the requested information for me.

I am writing to you again to make the request for information more simplified, hopefully enabling me to receive the said information that you hold for my research.

The FOI request I would like to make is:

The number of crimes against MALES during 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 that originate from meeting people on mobile dating apps.

These don't need to be categorised by crime type, but, if possible, that would help - but it's not essential to my request.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

I would direct you to our previous FOI response to you, reference 2021-211.

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

I have already explained to you in my previous response that whilst our crime recording system(s) are sophisticated, we do not physically record in specific searchable fields whether a crime has been related in some way to meeting someone via a mobile dating app or website.

The only way of identifying the records that meet your criteria would be to access and read each and every crime report for the time period you require in order to identify whether Grindr or any other Dating App / Website had a contributing part to play in a particular crime.

The number of crimes that Wiltshire Police have recorded between 2017-2020 where a MAN has specifically been the victim are as follows :-

2017	17,034
2018	15,965
2019	15,981
2020	14,451

Even allowing a very generous 1 minute per record - 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.

Please Note

There is no obligation on an Authority to provide an explanation why some Forces may be able to provide responses to the same FOI request when others cannot, but under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance I would advise you that not every Police Force in the country uses the same system(s) to either record crime or search for data.

Also under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would normally 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.

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 FoI 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