



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext. 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 12/04/2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/227

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/03/2022 concerning paedophile hunter groups.

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 Performance Team at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote and Our Response:

Breaking the figures into each year for the following years 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011, please answer the below questions.

Please also include a keyword search for 'paedophile hunter group' to try and establish how many can be directly attributed to the groups. If such a search is not possible, please advise in the response. (i.e. year 2021- crimes 47, positive outcomes 12, keyword search 14.)

1. How many crimes have been recorded for the following offences and if records allow, how many have led to a positive conclusion such as charge, community resolution or charge? If there has been any change in your crime recording which may impact the figures, please provide details and dates.

- Arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence contrary to section 14 of the 2003 Act (Grooming).
- Offence contrary to section 15A of the 2003 Act namely, sexual communication with a child.
- Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity contrary to sections 8 or 10 of the 2003 Act (or attempting to do so).
- Indecent images of children (IIOC) offences, possess or distribute.

Please see spreadsheet below

Please note the data is presented in an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from 'live' systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data. Data is live and correct as at 11/03/2022.

A 'key word' search was completed, as requested, using the text 'PAEDOPHILE HUNTER GROUP', however this search is only able to be completed in the summary wording of the occurrence. Therefore a 'key word' search is not considered to be an accurate search method.

Reported year	S14 - Arranging or facilitating the commission of child sex offence (Grooming)		15A - Sexual communication with a child.		S8 & S10 Causing/ incite child to engage in sexual activity		Indecent Images of children (IIOC) offences, posses or distribute		Crimes which contained wild card search 'PAEDOPHILE HUNTER GROUP' within the offence summary
	Crimes reported	Positive outcomes by reported year	Crimes reported	Positive outcomes by reported year	Crimes reported	Positive outcomes by reported year	Crimes reported	Positive outcomes by reported year	
2011	0	0	0	0	18	6	69	54	
2012	2	0	0	0	23	8	48	43	
2013	0	0	0	0	47	15	72	49	
2014	1	0	0	0	112	22	150	79	
2015	0	0	1	0	174	20	234	51	
2016	0	0	0	0	179	24	244	62	
2017	0	0	21	5	186	22	350	74	
2018	2	1	42	8	201	36	303	51	
2019	4	4	44	8	172	10	271	51	1
2020	2	1	49	20	153	11	387	45	1
2021	6	3	51	1	185	22	383	10	

2. What is your constabularies policy when dealing with potential paedophile hunter groups (Online Child Abuse Activist Groups)? What guidance is provided to attending officers of 'stings'?

No information held

3. Has your constabulary conducted any pro-active work with any paedophile hunter groups (Online Child Abuse Activist Groups)? Such as provide training on statements, legal guidelines etc?

No information held

4. Have you mapped paedophile hunter groups (Online Child Abuse Activist Groups) in the area you police? Do you know how many there are?

No information held

5. Would your force lead be interested in exploring working with paedophile hunter groups (Online Child Abuse Activist Groups) in an effort to manage the risk presented to the target, manage the safeguarding risks resultant from the activities and increase the quality of evidence with an aim to achieving an increase in prosecutions and reducing investigation time?

No information held

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

Force 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.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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>