

**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: 8th June 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 473

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31st May 2022 concerning crimes reported including the word "Grinder" or "Grindr".

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 Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please could you provide me with the number of crimes reported that include the word "Grindr" or "Grinder" AND involve a person under the age of 18 as the VICTIM.

Please provide this information broken down into categories - e.g., rape, harassment, blackmail, etc. - and for the following years only:

2019

2020

2021

2022 (Jan 1 - May 31)

Our response:

For reasons such as those listed below, unless an applicant such as yourself specifically request the use of a wildcard or keyword search we will not provide results (particularly into the public domain) using this method as they are notoriously unreliable and are open to misinterpretation.

The reasons why results obtained from our systems using wildcard or keyword searches are so unreliable include (but are not limited to) the following :-



- We are only able to conduct searches based on the abbreviated short summary description of an offence (which is limited to approx. 200 characters) rather than the whole of the crime log, which can run to many many pages
- If the specific word searched for is not mentioned in the abbreviated summary description of the offence, it will not be returned within any searches undertaken. In reality, there may be crimes recorded that feature the keywords you require mentioned within the crime log (but not the abbreviated description) – in cases like these, any results will not feature in any searches
- Wildcard or keyword searches are reliant on those words being spelt correctly within the abbreviated description of the offence in order to be returned in any searches undertaken – if Grindr is actually mis-spelt as say “Grindder” in the offence description it will not be returned in any searches that are run
- Etc

However, as you have specifically requested the use of wildcard / keyword search in this instance, the results that meet your criteria are as follows :-

2019	No crimes
2020	No crimes
2021	2 crimes – as follows :- 1 Blackmail 1 Engage in sexual communication with a child
2022 (to 31 st May)	No crimes to 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.

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