



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 9th December 2022

Ref: FOI 2022/975

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th December 2022 concerning child abuse and sexual offences against children.

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 after having consulted the Performance Team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I would like to please get the following data that you hold on the number of recorded child abuse offences, child sex abuse offences and child sexual exploitation offences.

For “children”, I am asking for data on under 18s

Please could I have the data (set out below) for the financial years:

- 2016/2017,
- 2017/2018,
- 2018/2019,
- 2019/2020,
- 2020/2021,
- 2021/2022

I would like the following information:

- The total number of recorded child abuse offences (including physical, emotional and online), for each year category specified above
 - And, how many of the above child abuse offences resulted in a charge or summons, for each year category
- The total number of recorded sexual offences against children (including online), for each year category specified above

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- And, how many of the above sexual offences against children resulted in a charge or summons, for each year category
- The total number of recorded child sexual exploitation offences (including online), for each year category specified above
 - And, how many of the above child sexual exploitation offences resulted in a charge or summons, for each year category

Suggested format:

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021-2022
Recorded child abuse offences						
Recorded child abuse offences resulting in a charge or summons						
Recorded sexual offences against children						
Recorded sexual offences against children resulting in a charge or summons						
Recorded child sexual exploitation offences						
Recorded child sexual exploitation offences resulting in a charge or summons						

Our response:

Please see the tables below for the number of child abuse crimes that have been recorded (where the victim is under 18), as well as the number of these crimes that have resulted in a charge/summons –

Reported Fiscal Year	Crimes
2016-2017	433
2017-2018	466
2018-2019	356
2019-2020	265
2020-2021	311
2021-2022	420

Reported Fiscal Year	Charged/Summonsed
2016-2017	22
2017-2018	39
2018-2019	28
2019-2020	24
2020-2021	11
2021-2022	11

Please note, that the term “child abuse” is not a mandatory tag in our crime recording systems, so please bear in mind that there may have been other crimes recorded involving

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child abuse that are not included within the figures above, as the appropriate tag may not have been selected at the time of recording.

Please see the tables below for the number of sexual offence crimes that have been recorded (where the victim is under 18), as well as the number of these crimes that have resulted in a charge/summons –

Reported Fiscal Year	Crimes
2016-2017	577
2017-2018	643
2018-2019	650
2019-2020	580
2020-2021	519
2021-2022	729

Reported Fiscal Year	Charged/Summonsed
2016-2017	48
2017-2018	74
2018-2019	50
2019-2020	42
2020-2021	40
2021-2022	29

Please see the tables below for the number of child sexual exploitation crimes that have been recorded (where the victim is under 18), as well as the number of these crimes that have resulted in a charge/summons –

Reported Fiscal Year	Crimes
2016-2017	66
2017-2018	116
2018-2019	84
2019-2020	74
2020-2021	55
2021-2022	55

Reported Fiscal Year	Charged/Summonsed
2016-2017	10
2017-2018	30
2018-2019	9
2019-2020	8
2020-2021	7
2021-2022	5

Similarly to the note above regarding the child abuse offences, please note, that the term "child sexual exploitation" is not a mandatory tag in our crime recording systems, so please bear in mind that there may have been other crimes recorded involving child sexual exploitation that are not included within the figures above, as the appropriate tag may not have been selected at the time of recording.

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

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.

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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