



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 26th January 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 050

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th January 2023 concerning On-Line Grooming.

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 (and Our Response) :

Please send me:

- The total number of online grooming cases (Sexual Communication with a Child offences) recorded in 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017.

2017	12
2018	21
2019	29
2020	36
2021	25
2022	24

- The age of the victims in these cases each year and the proportion of the victims that identified themselves as each gender category, where these details were recorded.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Reported Year & Victim Gender	Victim Reported Age										Grand Total
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
2017		1		1		5	2	3			12
F		1		1		5	2	3			12
2018			2	3	6	3	5		1	1	21
F			2	3	6	3	4		1		19
M							1			1	2
2019			4	3	1	7	5	5	4		29
F			4	2	1	7	5	5	4		28
M				1							1
2020	1			3	7	10	6	6	3		36
F	1			2	6	8	5	4	3		29
M				1	1	2	1	2			7
2021		2	1	4	2	4	4	5	3		25
F		1	1	3	2	3	4	3	3		20
M		1		1		1		2			5
2022				1	5	7	2	4	3	2	24
F				1	4	3	2	1	1		12
M					1	4		3	2	2	12
Grand Total	1	3	7	15	21	36	24	23	14	3	147

- The methods, social media platforms and websites used in these offences each year where the means of communication was known/recorded. Ideally broken down as percentages, such as Snapchat was used in 30% of offences, Facebook was used in 17%.

Platform	Number
2017	12
Facebook	6
Instagram	3
Snapchat	1
Unknown Social media	1
Zoosk	1
2018	21
Facebook	3
Fast Meet	1
Gaming app	1
Instagram	3
Lycos	1

OME.TV	2
PSN	1
Roblox	1
Snapchat	5
Text	1
Whatsapp	1
Snapchat/Instagram	1
2019	29
Chat avenue	1
Facebook	6
Instagram	5
Roblox	1
Sky	1
Snapchat	3
Telegram	1
Text	2
Unknown Social media	3
Whatsapp	3
Yubo	2
Snapchat/Instagram	1
2020	36
Discord	1
Diskord / Wink	1
Facebook	8
Fast Flirting	2
Instagram	4
Kik	2
Snapchat	8
Text	4
Unknown Social media	1
Video	2
Whatsapp	2
Instagram	1
2021	25
ChatIW /Skype	1
Discord	1
Facebook	1
Facetime	1
Instagram	5
Roblox	1
Skout	1
Snapchat	10
Text	3

Unknown Social media	1
2022	24
Chat avenue	1
Chat IW	1
Facebook	3
Facetime	2
Gaming app	6
Instagram	1
Snapchat	5
Text	3
website	1
X box	1
Grand Total	147

- How many people were arrested in relation to these crimes in each year, how many were found guilty and sentenced and how many are still ongoing

The information around the numbers of individuals arrested and charged/summonsed for these offences is as follows :-

Year	Arrested	Charged / Summonsed	Charged	Summonsed / Postal Requisition	Cases still under investigation
2017	7	1	-	-	-
2018	3	-	-	1	-
2019	9	-	1	1	-
2020	12	-	2	5	2
2021	3	-	-	1	-
2022	6	-	-	-	17
Grand Total	40	1	3	8	19

Conviction and Sentencing Information

No Information Held.

There is no obligation on an Authority to explain why information may not be held when answering an FOI request, however I can confirm that Wiltshire Police do not hold details of conviction data.

Under our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant we would suggest you submit an FOI request asking for this information directly to the CPS.

- How many websites or other means of communication were taken down in each year in relation to these offences

No information held

I would like the above information to be emailed to me in electronic form.

Please Note :-

This information has been generated from crimes recorded under the following two Home Office Crime Codes :-

71/17 Engage in sexual communication with a child

88/01 Meeting a child following sexual grooming, Offender 18 or over and Victim U16 (S15, SOA 2003)

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