

**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: 14th April 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 434

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th April 2023 concerning Crimes including the word "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:

For all crimes reported between 2019 - 2022 that include the word "Grindr" (referring to the dating app only) AND whereby the alleged victim of the offence was under the age of 18, I would like to request whether any individuals were:

- (a) charged (and if so, for what?),
- (b) sentenced (and if so, for how long?).

Please provide this information for the following years: 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

If a trial took place, I would like to request the date/time of the trial, at which court it was held (and court number).

Our response:

There was only 1 crime occurrence recorded by Wiltshire Police (in 2021) where the word "Grindr" featured in the summary description of the offence and the alleged victim was under the age of 18.

I can confirm that the alleged offender received a summons / postal requisition for the offence of Engaging in Sexual Communication with a Child (HO Code 88A).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Wiltshire Police do not hold any information in respect of sentencing – to obtain this information you will need to submit a similar FOI request directly to CPS (Crown Prosecution Service).

I am not able to confirm the date/time of any trial, the Court at which the case may have been held or the Court Number as this is exempt under Section 40 of the FOIA (Personal Information).

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no obligation on an Authority to provide any rationale for imposing an exemption of this type, however in this case I am happy to provide some clarity to you :-

- The provision of this information could - along with other information that currently exists in the public domain - lead to this single individual offender being identified.

Please Note

The information you requested was found using a wildcard search for the word “Grindr” in the summary description of all offences where the alleged victim was under 18 for the time period you require.

It needs to be noted that wildcard searches can only be made of the short abbreviated description of an offence, not the whole narrative of the entire investigation log. If the word “Grindr” featured in the investigation log but not in the summary description of the offence, then it would not have been returned in any search results.

It also needs to be noted that wildcard searches are not 100% reliable as they rely on the key word being searched for being spelt grammatically correctly in the summary description of an offence. If the word was spelt “Grinder” it would not be found in any search results.

Unless an applicant specifically asks for a wildcard search (which you effectively have), we would generally not publish information in the public domain – as this FOI request will be – if we were not 100% sure of the information.

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 40 : Personal Information

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular part of your 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