



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 20th June 2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/621**

Dear ***,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th June 2023 concerning sexual abuse on and by under-18s.

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 Business Intelligence Unit at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote/Our Response:

I would like the following information on sexual assaults by under-18s on under-18s. Information identical to this request has been disclosed previously in 2017. A report of the findings can be found here: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/09/child-on-child-sexual-assaults-soar-police-figures-reveal>

I would like the following information from the force:

1. The number of reports received of an alleged sexual assault committed by a person under-18 on a victim aged under 18. I would like this information broken down by year, covering 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.
2. The number of reports covered in 1) that included an allegation of rape. I would like this information broken down by year, covering 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.

Question 1&2 - This data includes crimes & non-crime incidents where Victim & Suspect are under 18 at the time.

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Reported Year	Crimes/Incidents
2019	125
Rape	45
Sexual assault	80
2020	108
Rape	46
Sexual assault	62
2021	145
Rape	57
Sexual assault	88
2022	213
Rape	78
Sexual assault	135
Grand Total	591

3. The number of reports covered in 1) in which the alleged perpetrator was aged 10 or under. I would like this information broken down by year, covering 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.

Please note - a child under 10 cannot be a suspect/offender

Reported Year	Crimes/Incidents
2019	2
Sexual assault	2
2020	2
Rape	2
2021	5
Rape	2
Sexual assault	3
2022	6
Rape	2
Sexual assault	4
Grand Total	15

4. The number of reports covered in 1) that took place on school premises. I would like this information broken down by year, covering 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.

Reported Year	Crimes/Incidents
2019	24
Rape	2
Sexual assault	22
2020	13
Rape	1
Sexual assault	12
2021	25
Rape	3
Sexual assault	22

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2022	38
Rape	6
Sexual assault	32
Grand Total	100

5. The number of reports covered in 1) in which no further action was taken. I would like this information broken down by year, covering 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.

Reported Year	Crimes/Incidents
2019	112
Rape	40
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	24
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	12
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	2
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1
Sexual assault	72
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	8
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	39
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	13
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	10
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	2
2020	97
Rape	39
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	3
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	16
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	14
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	5
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1
Sexual assault	58
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	33
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	17
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	7
2021	127
Rape	48
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	24
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	21
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	3
Sexual assault	79
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	1
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	42
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	14
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	20
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1
2022	159
Rape	48
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	1

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15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	21
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	21
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	4
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1
Sexual assault	111
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	2
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	53
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	43
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	13
Grand Total	495

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

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

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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/>