

**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: 25th February 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 197

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th February 2025 concerning the On Line Safety Act.

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

1. How many reported crimes have there been in your force area between 31 January 2024 and 31 January 2025 of the following offences since they were introduced under the Online Safety Act on 31 January 2024?

- a) Sending false Communications
- b) Sending Threatening Communications
- c) Sending or Showing Flashing Images Electronically (Cyber-flashing)
- d) Encouraging or Assisting Serious Self-Harm
- e) Sending Photograph or Film of Genitals
- f) Sharing or Threatening to Share an Intimate Photograph or Film

2. Please provide any information relating to which social media/online platform the offences occurred, i.e. Facebook, X, TikTok, Instagram, Whatsapp, online gaming - i.e. Roblox

3. How many arrests in your force area have been made between 31 January 2024 and 31 January 2025 on suspicion of the following charges since the new offences were introduced under the Online Safety Act on 31 January 2024?

- a) Sending false Communications
- b) Sending Threatening Communications
- c) Sending or Showing Flashing Images Electronically (Cyber-flashing)
- d) Encouraging or Assisting Serious Self-Harm
- e) Sending Photograph or Film of Genitals
- f) Sharing or Threatening to Share an Intimate Photograph or Film



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

4. For any arrests can you please provide the ages of those arrested for each offence?
5. Please also provide any information relating to which social media/online platform the offences occurred, i.e. Facebook, X, TikTok, Instagram, Whatsapp, online gaming - i.e. Roblox
6. How many charges have been brought by the force for the following new offences since they were introduced under the Online Safety Act on 31 January 2024?
- a) Sending false Communications
 - b) Sending Threatening Communications
 - c) Sending or Showing Flashing Images Electronically (Cyber-flashing)
 - d) Encouraging or Assisting Serious Self-Harm
 - e) Sending etc Photograph or Film of Genitals
 - f) Sharing or Threatening to Share an Intimate Photograph or Film
7. For any charges can you please provide the ages of those charged for each offence?
8. Please also provide any information relating to which social media/online platform the offences occurred, i.e. Facebook, X, TikTok, Instagram, Whatsapp, online gaming - i.e. Roblox

Our response:

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet where tables have been provided on separate tabs in answer to each of the questions above.

Please Note

- Where the Outcome Description is listed as “New” it is because the crime is still an open and live investigation for Wiltshire Police.
- Where the Platform description is listed as “Not Stated” it is because the Platform concerned has either not been recorded / reported OR is not mentioned in the summary description of an offence – which is the primary method we have of identifying the Platform involved within the permitted timescale in which we have to respond to this request.
- The name of the actual Platform involved in the “Not Stated” cases may well be recorded within the full occurrence log of a crime (or in an accompanying statement for instance) but to manually locate and review every one of those other cases would undoubtedly exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits – particularly given the amount of time already taken to produce the data provided - this is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it. Exceeding the fees limit would incur a Section 12 exemption with regards a response.

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