

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 22nd April 2025

Our ref: FOI 2025/346

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25th March concerning sex workers.

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 I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

What is the number of prostitution cases taken to court each year between 2014-2024 (in the last 10 years)? (and with a breakdown of the specific charges)

How many people have been arrested for soliciting sex work each year between 2014-2024 (in the last 10 years)?

How many prostitute cautions were issued each year between 2014-2024 in? (In the last 10 years)

How many reports of violence/abuse against sex workers were filed each year between 2014-2024 (in the last 10 years)?

Are there any problem profiles in relation to sex work or soliciting sex work, and could access to these be made available?

Response:

The information that you are requesting for part of your request (namely question 4) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our Crime Recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have a number of fields in which information pertaining to a crime or incident is recorded (and can be searched), we do not have a specific field in which we record more specific information you requested.

Our systems can only report on the number of Violence Against the Person crimes, there is no way to narrow this down to against Sex Workers. The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reviewing and/or reading the Occurrence / Crime Record on our Niche database for the time period you require, around 170k occurrences for the 10 years requested.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. 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.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

Question 1

Distinct Count of OccNo	Causing or inciting prostitution for gain	Exploitation of prostitution (S52, SOA 2003)	Solicit another for the purpose of obtaining their sexual services as a prostitute in a street / public place (Sec 51A SOA 2003)
2014			2
2015			2
2016		1	2
2017			2
2018			9

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2019			1
2020	1		
2021			
2022			
2023	1		
2024			

Question 2

	Distinct Count of PersonId
2014	2
2015	3
2016	1
2017	6
2018	4
2019	1
2020	
2021	
2022	
2023	
2024	1

Question 3

	Distinct Count of OccNo
2014	7
2015	6
2016	2
2017	1
2018	5
2019	
2020	1
2021	2
2022	

2023	
2024	1
2025	

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 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

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

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/>