

**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: 30th July 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 724

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29th July 2025 concerning Domestic Abuse and Spyware.

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 Intelligence Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response)

For the previous 10 years (2015 to 2025 year to date) :-

- 1 For the previous 10 years, how many domestic abuse-related reports were received where “cocaine” is noted in the MO field as a suspected aggravating factor?

Year	Number
2015	6
2016	8
2017	9
2018	6
2019	14
2020	14
2021	7
2022	17
2023	22
2024	11
2025 to date	10
Grand Total	124



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Please refer to the notes below regarding wildcard searches.

- 2 Of the suspected offenders in the reports in Q1, how many were aged under 25?

Year	Number
2015	2
2016	0
2017	1
2018	1
2019	1
2020	1
2021	0
2022	1
2023	0
2024	1
2025 to date	1
Grand Total	9

- 3 For the past 10 years, please share the number of reports received by the police where a victim suspects hidden spyware, AKA stalkerware, has been installed on their device by someone else, in order to track their location or monitor their activity.

Please include search results for any of the following phrases:

'stalkerware', 'spyware', 'mSpy', and 'tracking app'. Please do not count the same individual report more than once in the total number.

Year	Number
2015	0
2016	1
2017	1
2018	1
2019	0
2020	2
2021	3
2022	5
2023	9
2024	4
2025 to date	2
Grand Total	28

Please refer to the notes below regarding wildcard searches.

4 Of the reports in Q3, how many of the victims were aged under 25?

Year	Number
2015	0
2016	0
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	1
2021	0
2022	0
2023	5
2024	1
2025	1
Grand Total	8

Wildcard Searches

At your request, we have undertaken “wildcard” searches for the keywords :-

- a) “Cocaine” in Q1
- b) “stalkerware”, “spyware”, “mSpy”, and “tracking app” in Q3

It should be noted that wildcard searches are notoriously unreliable for a number of reasons, such as (but not limited to the following) :-

- we are only able to undertake such searches on the abbreviated summary description of an offence (which is limited to some 200 characters) and NOT the full narrative of the crime log. If the mention of “cocaine”, “stalkerware”, “spyware”, “mSpy” or “tracking app” was made in the body of a crime log but not in the summary description of it (for instance), it will not be found in search results run using this method.
- Wildcard searches are reliant on the keywords being searched for being spelt correctly – if a crime report includes the word cocaine was spelt as “cokane” for instance, it will not feature in any search results

In all likelihood the figures returned using wildcard searches are invariably understated for the reasons listed above.

The only way to ascertain for certain the information you require would be to manually locate and read each individual crime log to see if it met your criteria or not. This would almost certainly then invoke a Section 12 exemption due to the time/cost involved in undertaking that exercise and the fact that Wiltshire Police record in excess of 40,000 crimes in any given year.

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