

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXX



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 23/10/2025

Our ref: FOI 2025/971

Reply contact name: XXXXX

Dear XXXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/10/2025 concerning Non-contact offences versus contact offences.

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:

The number and proportion of non-contact offences (e.g., voyeurism, exposure, online grooming, sextortion) versus contact offences (e.g., rape, assault).

Year-on-year trends in these offence types.

If available, data on platforms used in cyber-related offences (e.g., social media, gaming apps) and any internal estimates on undetected cases from digital forensics summaries.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the second part of your request (concerning platforms used in cyber offences) is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Although our crime recording systems are fairly sophisticated and contain a number of dedicated fields in which specific information about a crime is recorded (eg victim name, suspect dob, etc) and which can – theoretically – be used to run searches against, we do not have a dedicated field in which we record the name or type of platform used in a cyber-related offence.

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If held, this information would only be recorded in either the narrative of the occurrence log or in other supportive documentation such as statements, ad-hoc reports etc.

The ascertaining of the information you require here can only be found by locating and reading the crime report and associated documents for every cyber-related crime recorded during the time period you require.

Given the volume of cyber-crimes reported, 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 also 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

Please find attached an excel spreadsheet detailing all the Sexual Offences recorded by Wiltshire Police for the time period you require, broken down by Home Office Crime Code.

Please note, we do not record on our systems anywhere whether these offences are contact or non-contact, nor do we undertake any comparisons between the two. Our response in respect of this part of Q1 is therefore – No Information Held.

It should be noted that there is no obligation on an authority to create data – where none currently exists today – just to answer an FOI request.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of question 2 to a manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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.

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The exemption applicable to the information requested is: Section 12 (1)

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

XXXXXXXX

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 Fol 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/>