

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 19th September 2025

Our Ref FOI 2025-869

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 5th September 2025, concerning Malicious Communications Act arrests.

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 department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote and our response:

- 1a) How many arrests were made in the most recent 12-month period for which you have data under section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988?

35 arrests (period : 01.09.2024 and 31.08.2025)

- 1b) Of these arrests:

- i) how many were made because the material involved was considered 'indecent'?
- ii) how many were made because the material involved was considered 'grossly offensive'?

Wiltshire Police cannot answer this question as we do not hold the information you require.

Although, when asked, a personal interpretation of 'indecent' and 'grossly offensive' was provided, this was still too broad for our Business Intelligence department to use. Internet searches indicate what is 'indecent' and 'grossly offensive' is a decision made by the Courts (Tyler Hoffman Solicitors : [What Are the Malicious Communications Sentencing Guidelines? - Tyler Hoffman](#) and Stuart Miller Solicitors : [A Guide to Malicious Communications Act Offences](#)).

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Therefore, under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you to contact HM Courts and Tribunals Service to see if they can be of further assistance.

- 2a) How many arrests were made in the same period under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003?

Wiltshire Police do not have a way of separating the sections of this Act on our systems, and what is held is the whole Act except for s125 and s126.

For the period requested, there is no data held for the Communications Act 2003.

- 2b) Of these arrests:

- i) how many were made because the material involved was considered 'indecent' or 'obscene'?
- ii) how many were made because the material involved was considered 'menacing'?
- iii) how many were made because the material involved was considered 'grossly offensive'?
- iv) how many were made because the material involved was considered to be for the purpose of 'causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety'?

N/A

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,

FDU 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



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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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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