

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 01/10/2025

Our ref **FOI 2025/910**

Reply contact name is: XXXX

Dear XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 24/09/2025, concerning child sexual exploitation.

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, searches were conducted with Business Intelligence of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

Primary request: record-level dataset

Please provide **record-level (row-by-row) data** for all CSE-related crimes in your force area for each calendar year 2010–2024 inclusive (and 2025 year-to-date if available).

A) Scope / definition

- Confirm the operational definition of "Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)" and whether you use a CSE flag/marker.
- If no CSE flag exists, please state which Home Office offence codes or crime classifications you use to identify CSE offences (e.g., grooming, arranging/facilitating child sexual offences, sexual communication with a child, controlling child prostitution/indecency, etc.).

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

B) Requested dataset fields (record-level, anonymised)

For each relevant record, please include:

- Year of offence/record
- Crime classification/offence code
- Outcome code (Home Office outcome type, with description if available)
- Arrest made (Y/N)
- Suspect sex (M/F/Other/Unknown)
- Suspect ethnicity (classification used by force)
- Suspect nationality (if recorded; if not, state "not recorded")
- Suspect religion (if recorded; if not, state "not recorded")
- CPS referral (Y/N)
- CPS charging decision (if recorded by police)

C) Format

- Please supply data in **machine-readable CSV** with a **data dictionary** (field definitions, code lists, outcome descriptions).
- Remove any direct personal identifiers (names, DOB, addresses, case numbers).

Fallback request: aggregated data

If providing the above record-level dataset would:

- exceed the s.12 cost limit,
- or be refused under s.40 (personal information) or s.31 (law enforcement),

then please instead provide **annual aggregated totals** for 2010–2024 (and 2025 YTD):

1. Number of recorded crimes meeting your CSE definition.
2. Outcomes for those crimes by Home Office outcome type.
3. Number of arrests of suspects, broken down by:
 - Sex (M/F/Other/Unknown)
 - Ethnicity (force's classification)
 - Nationality (if recorded)
 - Religion (if recorded)
4. Number of CPS referrals for charging decisions.
5. CPS charging decisions recorded by police (Charge/Alternative charge/No further action/Out of court/etc.).

Assistance

- If full coverage from 2010 is not available, please provide data from the earliest year held.
- If any field is not held, please confirm explicitly (s.1(1)(a)).
- If partial data is possible, please release what you hold and advise under s.16 how to refine further.

Our response:

Please note that we are unable to answer all of your request in full, though we can provide the following data with some caveats:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

- CSE 'flags' were introduced in 2015 so this is the earliest available data. We do not know the exact date during 2015 so it might be best to provide data from 2016 in the response.
- The 2025 data is provided up to the end of August
- Religion is a non-mandatory data field so there is very little data
- CPS referrals for charging decisions can only be found by reading each occurrence which would exceed the time limit (\$12)
- CPS charging decisions are CPS data so not for us to disclose. The requestor should ask the CPS for this data – Please use the following link for this:

[Freedom of Information | The Crown Prosecution Service](#)

1

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Distinct Count of OccNo	5	80	169	147	133	143	112	331	375	295	261	2051

2

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
1. Charged/summonsed	1	19	8									28
1: Charged		1	1	8	9	8	8	21	23	31	5	115
1: Summonsed/postal requisition			26	19	7	26	18	51	31	18	1	197
10: Police - formal action not in public interest			1	1								2
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility			1			2	4	3	5	9	5	29
12: Named suspect identified but is dead or too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute			1	1					4	3	1	10
13: Named suspect but victim/key witness deceased or too ill			1									1
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender		1	2	3	2	5	4	5	5	3	2	32
15. Named suspect ID-victim supports but ED	3	26	55	3								87
15: CPS - named suspect, victim		1	7	3	11	2	2	4	13	5		48

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

supports but evidential difficulties												
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		2	13	34	32	29	23	70	60	30	7	300
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1	13	24	16	12	10	13	26	30	16	6	167
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired						1		1				2
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		10	19	33	24	24	15	62	95	46	45	373
1A. Suspect charged with an alternative offence			1	3								4
1A: Alternate offence charged			1		1	1		3	3			9
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition			2	2	3	1	2	9	2	2		23
2. Caution-youths		1										1
2: Youth caution					2			1				3
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy		2	2	5	7	1	4	11	6	3	6	47
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest			1	15	21	30	16	36	37	15	13	184
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.								14	12	26	18	70
3. Caution-adults			2									2
3: Adult caution				1	1	1		1				4
3: Adult conditional caution								1			1	2
3A: Alternate offence adult caution								1	1			2
5: Offender has died		1	1				1		5			8
8: Community resolution		1						1				2
8: Youth restorative disposal									1	3	2	6
9: CPS - prosecution not in public interest		1			1			1		1		4
New - Under Investigation		1	1			2	2	9	42	84	149	290

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Grand Total	5	80	169	147	133	143	112	331	375	295	261	2051
--------------------	----------	-----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-------------

3 - Gender

Count of PersonId	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
F		1		1	1	1	2	5	6	6	3
M	4	31	67	46	38	50	43	135	158	158	59
Grand Total	4	32	67	47	39	51	45	140	164	164	62

3 – Primary Self-Defined Race

Count of PersonId	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A1. Asian Indian inc Asian British						1		1	2	2	
A2. Asian Pakistani inc Asian British					1		2				
A3. Asian Bangladeshi inc Asian British								1	1	1	
A4. Asian Chinese inc Asian British											1
A9. Any other Asian background		1		1				2		1	
B1. Black Caribbean inc Black British				1					2	2	
B2. Black African inc Black British			1					2	4	4	1
B9. Any other Black background								1	1	2	2
M1. Mixed White & Black Caribbean			1					4	1	1	
M2. Mixed White & Black African				1		1					
M3. Mixed White & Asian			1							1	

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

M9. Any other mixed								1			
NS. Not stated	2		3		2	4	4	9	10	17	4
O2. Arab									1		
O9. Any other			1							5	
W1. White British	1	31	57	41	36	42	38	116	138	123	51
W2. White Irish			1					1		2	
W3. White Gypsy or Irish Traveller						1					
W9. Any other white background	1		2	3		2	1	2	4	3	3
Grand Total	4	32	67	47	39	51	45	140	164	164	62

3 – Birth Country

Count of PersonId	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Afghanistan								1				1
Albania									1			1
Australia										1		1
Bangladesh						1		1		1		3
Brazil						1			1		1	3
Bulgaria										1		1
Canada							1					1
Czech Republic				1								1
England	2	18	17	30	19	14	15	73	63	71	25	347
Fiji										1		1
France									1			1
Germany		1	1			1	2	2		4	2	13
India		1			1			1	2	3	1	9
Iran, Islamic republic of									1			1
Ireland								1				1
Jamaica			1	1					2			4
Kenya								1		1		2
Latvia											1	1
Malawi									1			1
Nepal				1								1
Nigeria			1					1			1	3
North Macedonia	1											1
Northern Ireland					1							1
Not Stated			2	1	2	3	5		3	4	3	

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Pakistan							1					1
Poland				2				2	1	1		6
Portugal							1			3		4
Romania			2			1		1	1	1		6
Saint Lucia									1			1
Scotland				1					2		2	5
South Africa										1		1
Sri Lanka								1	1			2
Turkey			1							5		6
UK	1	12	42	10	16	29	19	53	80	60	23	345
Ukraine											1	1
United States of America						1			1			2
Wales							1	2		2	1	6
Zimbabwe									2	4	1	7
Grand Total	4	32	67	47	39	51	45	140	164	164	62	815

3 – Religion

Count of PersonId	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Atheist									1			1
Islam			1									1
Not Stated	4	32	66	47	39	51	45	140	163	164	62	813
Grand Total	4	32	67	47	39	51	45	140	164	164	62	815

As mentioned above, a S12 exemption applies to part of this request, however the above data has been provided to assist where possible.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved. In respect of other questions within your request, I cannot think of a way in which you would be able to refine these questions, as they may incite further exemptions dependent on what information we may or may not hold.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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