

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX- Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road

DEVIZES

Wiltshire

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disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 21st October 2025

Our ref: FOI 2025-964

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th October regarding sexual offences by taxi and PHV drivers.

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 Team Performance at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered, and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1) Can you please provide a count of sexual offences by taxi and PVH drivers for the last three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25).

1a) Can these statistics please be categorised by:

- Month
- Nature of offence
- Time of day

Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

The information you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Whilst occupation is a field within our recording systems, it is not mandatory. In order to determine how many suspects of sexual offence incidents were taxi or private hire vehicle drivers, we would be required to read through every sexual offence within the requested time frame to determine whether the suspects occupation has been recorded, of which there are in excess of 7000. It is also worth noting that if an occupation has been recorded, this does not necessarily mean that the incident in question is related to that person's occupation.

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. Therefore, the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note:

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

Forces may use different recording systems; therefore, it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

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.

Although excess cost removes the Forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied incidents where the occupation field has been selected. Please note this data may not be reliable as it is not a mandatory field and is also liable to human error. 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 can provide you with is documented below:

Reported Month Year	Start Time	Offence Description
Sep-2023	09:08:00	Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity: female child - no penetration
Sep-2023	09:23:00	Sexual assault of a female child under 13
Nov-2023	00:01:00	Attempted rape of a female aged under 16
Mar-2024	00:01:00	Share photograph or film of person in intimate state without consent

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker