

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 11/02/2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/116

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/01/2026 concerning crimes recorded where suspect under age 10.

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:

1. In the last three years, how many crimes were recorded by the force where a suspect identified could not be prosecuted because they were under the age of criminal responsibility (10)?

A. Please break the data down by calendar years, for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

2. Please also include:

- A. Age of suspect
- B. Type of offence (e.g. criminal damage, robbery.)
- C. The date of offence (day/month/year)
- D. Town/city (or force district area/division)
- E. Brief description of the offence where it exists (if this would not exceed the request limit)

Response:

Your request is exempt by virtue of the following exemption: -

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement for Wiltshire Police to articulate the harm or examine the public interest in disclosure. Information that constitutes personal data is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act if it is about a third party and disclosure to the public would contravene the data protection principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018. To break down the information to such a granular level as requested would likely lead to the identification of a child. For this reason, we are unable to supply you with this data. Further, please be aware that children under the age of 10 are not considered to have reached an age where they can be held responsible for crimes. Therefore, they are under the age of 'criminal responsibility' and cannot be charged with any criminal offence. They can however, still commit an offence which will be recorded.

Under Section 16 of our duty to provide advice and assistance, as a gesture of goodwill I can provide you with the following:

	Number of recorded offences
2023	15
2024	16
2025	9

Type of offence	2023	2024	2025
Theft Offences	1	0	0
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2	2	0
Sexual Offences	4	2	3
Arson And Criminal Damage	2	3	0
Violence Against The Person	6	9	6

	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9
2023	0	1	0	0	1	5	8
2024	1	0	1	1	3	1	8
2025	0	2	0	2	1	2	2

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.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and has 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

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



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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

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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/>