

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Our ref: FOI 2026/191

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/02/2026 concerning marital rapes.

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 **not** obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting access to the following information:

- How many reports of marital rape did your force receive for the calendar year of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- How many reports of rape in domestic settings did your force receive for the calendar year of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- How many reports of sexual assault in domestic settings did your force receive for the calendar year of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- How many reports of rape by a partner or ex partner in domestic settings did your force receive for the calendar year of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- How many reports of marital rape did your force receive from January 2025 - January 2026?
- How many reports of rape in domestic settings did your force receive from January 2025 - January 2026?
- How many people were charged with marital rape for the calendar year of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- How many people were charged with rape related to a spouse or partner or the calendar year of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

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Response:

Wiltshire Police's computer system does not have a field within which to record whether individuals are married and there is no specific offence of rape within a marriage. There is also no way to determine if a report of a rape or sexual assault by a partner or ex partner occurred in a domestic setting as there is no address type for residence. Therefore, if we even held all of the information you are requesting it would not be stored in a way which would permit easy retrieval and would require manually perusing the relevant crime reports and/or other documents for each incident from 2022 to 2025.

For example, for questions 2 and 3, as there is no address type for residence the only way to establish whether the incident occurred in a domestic setting would be to manually review all rape and sexual assault occurrences in the time period, there were 3083 reports of rapes and 6252 reports of sexual assault.

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 due to the fact that 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 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.

Q1

Volume of reports of rapes with the victim accused relationship of spouse/partner.

Distinct Count	Rape
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of OccNo	
2021	92
2022	117
2023	95
2024	130
2025	160
Total	594

Q4

Volume of reports of rapes with the victim accused relationship of Spouse / Partner, or Ex Spouse / Partner

Distinct Count of OccNo	Rape
2021	203
2022	238
2023	232
2024	294
2025	317
Total	1284

Q5 - the volume of reports of rapes from 1.1.25 – 31.1.26 where the victim accused relationship is Spouse / Partner - 181

Q7 and Q8

Volume of rape occurrences where someone was charged or summonsed where the victim accused relationship is spouse / partner

Distinct Count of OccNo	Charged or Summonsed
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2021	8
2022	5
2023	2
2024	3
2025	3
Total	21

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.

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.

Yours sincerely

Maria Evans

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

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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.

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

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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/>