

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 27th February 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 232

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24th February 2026 concerning Arrests for using or distributing illegal altered devices.

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 - having consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please could you tell me the number of people arrested for using or distributing illegally altered devices, such as Amazon Firesticks, to access premium channels over the last three years. I believe this may fall under Section 11 of the Fraud Act 2006.

Please provide figures by calendar year (2025, 2024, 2023) and 2026 to date if held. If five years of data are held, please provide that. If possible, please break down by those arrested for using and distributing the devices.

If possible - and held in a searchable format - please provide me with the number of arrest records containing the words "Amazon Firestick", "firestick" or "fire stick".

Our response:

Wiltshire Police record crime in accordance with the current Home Office Crime Classifications. There is currently no specific crime group that is dedicated to offences of this nature.

Any offences of this nature will ordinarily be referred initially to Action Fraud – the National Anti Fraud Network.



Under our Section 16 to be as helpful as possible we would recommend that you submit an FOI directly to Action Fraud for the information you require. They can be contacted at the following location :-

www.reportfraud.police.uk

I have undertaken the “wildcard” searches you requested for the following three terms :-

- “Amazon Firestick”
- “firestick”
- “fire stick”

For the time period you have requested this yielded 4 results not of which related to the types of offences you have described :-

- One related to a theft of Firesticks from a retail premises
- Two related to individuals accessing indecent images on a firestick and sharing them
- One related to the criminal damage of property including a firestick

Please Note

We do not not recommend the use of “wildcard” or “free-text” searches for information on our sytems for a number of reasons such as – but not limited to – the following :-

- a) We can only search on the limited c250 character summary description of na offence and NOT the whole occurrence investigation log
- b) Searches of this nature are reliant on the keywords being present in that summary description – if the words do not appear in the summary but do appear elsewhere in the occurrence log it will not found in any searches
- c) The searches are reliant on the specific word searched for being spelt correctly – if “Firestick” was spelt Figherstick” for instance, it would not feature in any results

For this reason, we do not recommend relying on “wildcard” or “free-text” searches to produce accurate results and we would not knowingly place information into the public domain (eg in an FOI response) that we knew was inaccurate. The only reason we would do so would be if the applicant specifically requested a search of this nature, as you have.

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,

Nick Penny
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
Telephone 101 ext 62005

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.pnn.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