

WILTSHIRE POLICE



**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 16/03/2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-273

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/03/2026, concerning sexual offences that occurred within hotels.

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 the Business Intelligence Unit 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:

I would like to request data on reported sexual offences that occurred within hotels in your police force area. Specifically, I request information for the financial years 2021 - 2022, 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026:

Please provide:

.The total number of sexual offences (rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment) reported where the location of the offence is recorded at a hotel.

.If available, a breakdown by financial year and by hotel for the offences above.

.If available, a simple categorisation of whether the offender was a guest at the same accommodation or an external person.

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:-

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

When Police reports are made, the way in which addresses can be inputted onto the call log can be done in various different ways. For example, the call taker may input the address as the hotel the incident is taking place on the call log or it could be inputted as the street name the hotel is on, which would make searching for this information not as simple as you might think. Furthermore, the address that is inputted onto the call log might depend on the caller's location (because the caller may not be calling from directly inside the hotel) and the address of the location the incident is taking place at. For example, a reporting person might be just outside or across the road from the hotel reporting an incident that may be taking place inside the hotel, however, the address the call taker may have put on the call log could be the street name the reporting person is on at the time of the call, and within the call log itself the call taker may detail the name of the hotel the incident is taking place at, which we would not know without physically going into each call log to find this out. Not only this, but even if the address on a call log was the address of a hotel, the actual report itself could relate to an incident taking place outside the hotel as opposed to directly inside it, which again may not be an accurate representation of the information you require. Therefore, in order to ascertain the information you require accurately, this would involve us having to carry out a manual interrogation of all call logs made in order to locate any relevant logs. As a result, in order to furnish you with your request this would take us well over the allocated time frame we have to complete your request within and it is therefore, exempt from disclosure.

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.

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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

www.wiltshire.police.uk |  Facebook/wiltshirepolice |  X/@wiltshirepolice |  LinkedIn/company/wiltshirepolice



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 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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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