

**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: 25th March 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 284

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th March 2026 concerning Communications Offences.

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 (and Our Response)

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

I am writing to request the following information relating to communications offences

- For each of the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 the number of arrests made by your force for each of the following offences
 - Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988	92	111	171	175	119
Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003	32	23	41	44	32
Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)	-	-	-	18	15
Total	124	134	212	237	166

- For each of the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 the number of people charged by your force for each of the following offences
 - Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988	40	39	44	22	15
Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003	4	5	12	5	4
Section 179, Part 10, of the Online Safety Act 2023 (false communications)	-	-	-	6	3
Total	44	44	56	33	22

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 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