



WILTSHIRE POLICE

XXX

Sent via email: XXX



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 16/04/26

Our ref: FOI 2026/310

Reply contact name: XXX

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/03/26 concerning rape and sexual offences involving metaverse, virtual reality, Roblox and Fornite.

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 (and our response):

Please note the below caveats-

- There can be multiple victims per crime
- There can be multiple keywords in the occurrence summary for the same crime
- **Wildcard** function used on key words searching all crimes under Crime Group – Sexual Offences

For the period 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2026, please provide:

The total number of rape and sexual assault crimes recorded that include the tag 'online', 'virtual reality', 'VR' or 'virtual'. The total number of rape and sexual assault crimes recorded including the tag 'metaverse', 'meta', 'Roblox', or 'Fortnite':

No of Crimes with Keywords in Occurrence Summary									
Reported year / Tag	Online	Virtual Reality	VR	Virtual	Metaverse	Meta	Roblox	Fortnite	Total
2021	37	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	38

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2022	33	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	34
2023	37	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	40
2024	53	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	57
2025	66	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	72
2026	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19
Total	244	0	4	0	0	4	7	1	260

The gender and age of any victims - if unable to be specific then under 10, under 13, under 16, under 18, or 18+ is acceptable:

Aggrieved Gender				
Reported Year/ Aggrieved Gender	F	M	U	Grand Total
2021	24	6	8	38
2022	15	5	14	34
2023	24	6	11	41
2024	34	8	16	58
2025	48	17	9	74
2026	17	1	2	20
Grand Total	162	43	60	265

	Aggrieved Reported Age					
Reported Year/ Aggrieved Age	Under 18	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-62	Unknown
2021	19	0	3	2	1	13
2022	15	1	0	1	1	16
2023	16	8	1	3	3	10
2024	24	10	6	2	0	16
2025	32	15	7	5	3	12
2026	9	1	4	1	0	5
Grand Total	115	35	21	14	8	72

Whether these crimes resulted in any investigation (and if this is ongoing), arrests, charges, prosecutions, and convictions.

Reported Year	Number of People Arrested
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2021	12
2022	15
2023	17
2024	21
2025	27
2026	3
Grand Total	95

Detection Status of all crimes / Reported Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
1: Charged	2	4	3	3	4		16
1: Summoned/postal requisition	5	3		7			15
12: Named suspect identified but is dead or too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute		2	1				3
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender		1	1	3	1		6
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1	1	2	2			6
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	12	4	6	6	10	2	40
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	3	2	7	11	12		35
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	11	6	11	15	11	1	55
1A: Alternate offence charged	1						1
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition	1	2		1			4
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	1		1	3	5		10
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1				2		3
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.		8					8
3: Adult caution		1					1
5: Offender has died			7				7
8: Community resolution				1	1		2
New			1	4	26	16	47
Grand Total	38	34	40	56	72	19	259

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed on to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

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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



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 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

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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

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/>