

**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: 7th April 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 323

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd March 2026 concerning spiking in Sexual 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 Intelligence Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please provide (to the best of your ability) the following aggregated numbers (for your police force area).

For the period of 1 year (including start and end date) 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025:

* The total number of reported alleged (sexual offences / sexual assaults / rapes) that mention a (vape / e-cig / electronic cigarette / e-cigarette) was used as a method of (drugging / administering a drug / spiking / incapacitating) the alleged victim.

If your force does not record any of the terms specified above as a unique field but allows free-text searches of incident reports, please indicate the search words used. If any items cannot be provided, please provide as much aggregated information as you can and indicate which items are refused/absent and the reasons.

Our response:

Wiltshire Police record crime in accordance with current Home Office Crime Recording codes and guidelines.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

There is only 1 specific HO crime category which specifically meets your criteria, namely :-

- 088/05 Administering a substance with intent under the Sexual Offences Act

I can confirm that during 2025, Wiltshire Police recorded 4 specific crimes under this particular crime code, but none related to the use of either vapes or electronic / E cigarettes.

We have undertaken a wildcard search of the summary descriptions for each of the sexual offences recorded in our system(s) for 2025 - which number c2,300 – and have found 5 records where the specific keywords you mention have been found.

Of these, only 1 report mentioned the use of one of these items to potentially incapacitate a victim, but this was in respect of a theft and not a sexual offence of any kind.

Please note

Unless an applicant specifically requests the use of a wildcard / keyword search for information – as you have – we would not normally provide any information using this methodology.

The use of wildcard or keyword searches is prone to produce incorrect results for a number of reasons such as - but not limited to - the following :-

- a) The keyword searched for needs to be spelt grammatically correctly (eg anything recorded as “vaype” for instance would not be returned in any results run using this method
- b) We can only search the brief c200 character summary description of a crime report and not the whole occurrence log. If mention of the use of a vape or e-cigarette was made in the log report but not the abbreviated summary, again it would not be returned in any results run using this method.

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