

**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: 2nd April 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 342

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1st April 2026 concerning Children hospitalised after police contact.

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 Police powers Scrutiny Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please could you provide the following information:

1. How many children (under 18 years old) were hospitalised each calendar year from 2021 to 2025 following contact with your officers?
2. What are the reasons for treatment being needed? (ie. taser-use, police dogs)
3. If the time limit allows - please break down the data to indicate the children's ages.

Our response:

Please refer to information in the following table.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Year	Age	Police action related	Police tactic	Hospitalisation reason
2022	17	No	NA	Drug related
2022	15	No	NA	Mental Health
2022	14	No	NA	Drug related
2022	17	No	NA	Mental Health
2022	13	No	NA	Mental Health
2023	16	No	NA	Self harm
2023	17	No	NA	Mental Health
2023	17	No	NA	Self harm
2023	16	Yes	Foot chase, subject jumped a hedge and fell over hurting back	Fall
2023	13	No	NA	Returned to hospital as absconder
2023	14	No	NA	Self harm
2024	16	No	NA	Assaulted by member of public
2024	16	No	NA	Mental Health
2024	15	No	NA	Self harm
2024	17	No	NA	ABD
2024	17	No	NA	Assaulted by member of public
2024	14	No	NA	Self harm
2024	15	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	13	No	NA	Self harm
2025	16	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	17	No	NA	Self harm
2025	15	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	15	No	NA	Hospital absconder
2025	16	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	14	No	NA	Drug related
2025	13	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	14	No	NA	Self harm
2025	16	No	NA	Assaulted by member of public
2025	16	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	15	No	NA	Drug related
2025	15	No	NA	Self harm
2025	15	No	NA	Mental Health
2025	8	No	NA	Secondary drowning
2025	14	No	NA	Self harm
2025	16	No	NA	Intoxication
2025	17	No	NA	Self harm
2025	16	No	NA	Self harm
2025	17	No	NA	Drug related
2025	14	No	NA	Self harm

Please Note

The only way for us to identify instances of this nature is to review occurrences on our system where the Use of Force has been flagged with an end result of “Hospitalised” as a result - and then to review each of those incidents in turn.

An officer must submit a use of force report whenever they use any form of force on someone – this includes low level tactics like escort position (taking hold of someone’s arm to walk them somewhere), unarmed tactics like holding someone in place, all the way up to lethal force. In the majority of these cases it is us stopping a missing person from running off and using force to do so.

Here is the list from our Use of Force policy:

- A record must be created when one of the following techniques or tactics are used:
 - Handcuffing (compliant and non-compliant)
 - Unarmed skills (including pressure points, strikes, restraints and takedowns)
 - Use of dogs

- Drawing or use of baton
- Drawing or use of irritant spray
- Limb/Body restraints
- Spit guard
- Shield
- Conductive Energy Device (C.E.D currently TASER); Drawing or use of the Taser
- AEP: drawn or discharged
- Firearms: drawn or discharged or Other/improvised

The reality is that we are often called for missing children who have self-harmed or in mental health crisis as well as assisting attendant paramedics with children who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and force is needed to secure them and take them to the most appropriate place – hospital.

From the above information, you will see that there is a single incident where the Police have been responsible for the hospitalisation and this was during a foot chase where the subject tripped over a hedge and hurt their back.

You will also see that the number of instances increases year on year – this is due to better recording of use of force incidents force wide.

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