

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXX

Sent via email: XXX



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 18/06/26

Our ref: FOI 2026/483

Reply contact name: XXX

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/05/26 concerning rape/sexual abuse cases that do not make it to CPS.

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:

How many cases of rape/sexual abuse have been reported to Wiltshire police and how many were

1. Rejected by Wiltshire police and not submitted to the CPS?
2. Cases not taken forward by the CPS?
3. How many prosecutions were there?

Does Wiltshire police work with Rape Crisis as their interpretation of rape is very different. Rape Crisis is clearly non-consensual where, there is no touching, no eye contact or no talking.

Wiltshire police has a very different view and non of the above is valid with regards to rape. I.e a woman can be asleep on her side and a man can sexually assault her and this is not deemed rape by Wiltshire police

Response:

(Applicant clarified 12/06/26 this request is for a 10-year period broken down by year)

The information that you request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. Whilst our crime recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have several fields in which information pertaining to Keeping Wiltshire Safe

a crime or incident is recorded (and can be searched), we do not have a specific field in which we record crimes/occurrences by anything other than NFA (No further Action).

To obtain the requested data would require interrogating 10 years of individual sexual abuse occurrences, this would consist of revising thousands of records and taking considerable amounts of hours to review if/when a case was 'rejected' by Wiltshire Police or not sent to CPS. This is also because 'Rejected' by the force could mean not recorded or NFA prior to approaching CPS for a charging decision. Within the NFA decisions there are numerous reasons why the case is not brought forward – lack of evidence, victim attrition, etc. Therefore, I can't answer this question.

Under the circumstances I am 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.

Please note that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is because locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

What I can provide you with are the answers documented below:

Regarding figures for all sexual offending ('rape/sexual abuse') this would include offences against children, non-contact offending, etc. Which is still seen as abusive (or 'sexual violence').

- The force can provide a figure of the number of 'serious sexual offence' reports received by Wiltshire Police from Apr 2025 – 2026 stands at 1808, of which 777 were reports of rape.

The relevant department has yet to get the last month's (May 2026) figures; however, the force has been informed that 100% of cases heard were successfully prosecuted.

- In April 2026 there were 6 successful RASSO prosecutions through court which equalled a 75% success rate.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the 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

(1) 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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.

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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>