

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 25th June 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-523

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 5th June 2026, concerning parental guardians suspected of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) 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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) and MOSOVO department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

- 1) Does the current police data system capture whether an individual being investigated for a CSAM related offence has parental responsibility for a child?

We hold data in relation to children safeguarded as a result of each enforcement. If a person is visited whether for Words of Advice (WOA) / Triage / Arrest and there are children in the address or associated, then a report will be completed and shared with Child Services. All children will be listed on the linked crime report with parents / guardians noted and how they are associated to the person investigated.

- 2) Do police officers purposefully undertake a search warrant at a family residence at a time where any children registered at the address are likely to be present?

If children are registered at the address, then welfare / safeguarding is completed on them if they are present at the time of the attendance. To minimise upset and alarm for children, mothers / another responsible adult will remove them from the room / address whilst officers are in attendance for the search portion. POLIT try to keep enforcements as sensitive as possible and if another parent is present, then they will be given time to get the children sorted / to nursery / school etc before the search team enter the address.

- 3) If a search warrant is undertaken in a family residence would the non-suspect parent be left with access to the NPCC Family Pack? If yes:

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- a) In what format do you share the Family Pack?
- b) Does the Family Pack contain information about support services available locally and are any of these specifically for children (please state which ones)?

Support referrals left are contained in a business card with the following QR code link to support, so leaflets etc are not left lying around for others to see and make judgements on. The QR code directs the individual to the portal on the Wiltshire Police website.



- 4) Would a police officer routinely make a safeguarding referral to social services before beginning a CSAM investigation if it is known that the individual has regular unsupervised access to a child?

If children are identified as being at the address of the person under investigation, or linked to the address, then a report will be shared with Child Services and a request made not to contact the family until we have conducted our enforcement. In some cases, Child Services are liaised with and invited to attend with us.

- 5) If a safeguarding referral has been made by police in relation to a CSAM investigation, would social services routinely be sent updates in the following circumstances?:
 - a) Suspect held on remand after the initial arrest.
 - b) Suspect bailed to an alternative address away from a family residence.
 - c) Suspect bailed with conditions that limits contact with children under 18.
 - d) Suspect released under investigation without bail conditions.
 - e) Suspect has bail conditions lifted however remains under investigation.
 - f) Investigation has concluded with no further police action required.
 - g) Crown Prosecution Service has authorised charges for the suspect.
 - h) Date of the first court hearing.
 - i) Outcome of the court case.

Child services are kept up to date throughout the investigation / Court process.

- 6) When a suspect shared a primary residence with a child under the age of 18 at the start of an investigation and a search warrant was undertaken at that property, would the investigation team directly update the non-suspect parental guardian in the following circumstances?:
 - a) Suspect held on remand after the initial arrest.
 - b) Suspect bailed to an alternative address away from a family residence.
 - c) Suspect bailed with conditions that limits contact with children under 18.

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- d) Suspect released under investigation without bail conditions.
- e) Suspect has bail conditions lifted however remains under investigation.
- f) Investigation has concluded with no further police action required.
- g) Crown Prosecution Service has authorised charges for the suspect.
- h) Date of the first court hearing.
- i) Outcome of the court case.

Initial disclosure is provided to the parents / guardians of children associated to the suspect under investigation. At this time, they are informed of likely bail conditions - which could include limitations on contact with children and where they can reside - and their role in safeguarding their children. It is unlikely further updates will be made unless a child they are parent / guardian of is involved in the investigation as a victim, as they would have further updates on the state of the investigation and dates / outcomes of Court hearings.

- 7) When it is known that a suspect has established unsupervised contact arrangements with a child who resides elsewhere, would a police officer directly contact the child's primary parental guardian in the following circumstances?:
- a) Suspect held on remand after the initial arrest.
 - b) Suspect bailed with conditions that limits contact with children under 18.
 - c) Suspect released under investigation without bail conditions.
 - d) Suspect has had bail conditions lifted however remains under investigation.
 - e) Investigation has concluded with no further police action required.
 - f) Crown Prosecution Service has authorised charges for the suspect.
 - g) Date of the first court hearing.
 - h) Outcome of the court case.

If device downloads show contact or if contact is made whilst on bail and offences present / are suspected, then contact would be made with child and parents - POLIT would visit if within Wiltshire. If they reside in another Force area, then our counterparts in those Forces will be sent a request to visit on our behalf to conduct safeguarding / welfare checks and establish details. If offences are identified, then an investigation is carried out.

- 8) Does the current police data system capture whether an individual found guilty of a CSAM offence has parental responsibility for a child?

After a conviction they would be a Registered Sex Offender (RSO) and managed by an Offender Manager in MOSOVO. It is more likely up to date information about living arrangements would appear on their record system, as this is the main system used to update.

- 9) Would a sex offender manager update social services in the following circumstances?:
- a) An offender initially registering as a sex offender.
 - b) An offender had demonstrated an increase in risky behaviour.

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- c) The offender breached a sentencing requirement.
- d) An offender completed their Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
- e) An individual is no longer required to register as a sex offender.

10) Would a sex offender manager directly update a primary parental guardian of a child under 18 for whom an individual is likely to see regularly of the following?:

- a) That the individual was now a registered sex offender.
- b) The offender had demonstrated an increase in risky behaviour.
- c) The offender breached a sentencing requirement.
- d) The offender has completed their Sexual Harm Prevention Order.
- e) The individual is no longer required to register as a sex offender.

With regards to questions 9 and 10, decisions regarding information sharing by a Police Offender Manager are not automatic and are made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual's risk, safeguarding considerations, and the legal framework governing disclosure. The scenarios outlined may, amongst others, trigger consideration of a disclosure, however there is no prescriptive or automatic response in any circumstance.

Any updates to social services or disclosures to parents / guardians would be made only where necessary, proportionate, and legally justified, with a clear focus on the protection of children and vulnerable individuals. Such decisions are often informed and supported by multi-agency working under MAPPA, ensuring appropriate oversight, accountability, and consistency in risk management.

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,

FDU Decision Maker