

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: September 7,
2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/586

Reply contact name is:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 26th June 2026 concerning abuse in dance.

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 Business Intelligence Department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You Wrote:

Violent and sexual offences at dance premises, including dance school, dance schools, dance academy/academies etc 2025/2026

1, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in 2025/2026?

2, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the victim was aged under 18 (breakdown of age if possible) in 2025/2026?

3, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the perpetrator was over 18 in 2025/2026?

4. Is there any more information in relation to the perpetrator in terms of profession (ie Dance coach, dance principle, dance school owner etc)?

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Violent and sexual offences at dance premises, including dance school, dance schools, dance academy/academies etc 2024/2025

5, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in 2024/2025?

6, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the victim was aged under 18 (breakdown of age if possible) in 2024/2025?

7, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the perpetrator was over 18 in 2024/2025?

8. Is there any more information in relation to the perpetrator in terms of profession (ie Dance coach, dance principle, dance school owner etc)?

Violent and sexual offences at dance premises, including dance school, dance schools, dance academy/academies etc 2023/2024

9, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in 2023/2024?

10, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the victim was aged under 18 (breakdown of age if possible) in 2023/2024?

11, How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the perpetrator was over 18 in 2023/2024?

12. Is there any more information in relation to the perpetrator in terms of profession (ie Dance coach, dance principle, dance school owner etc)?

The Appeal

1, Other Police forces in the UK say they can return this data.

2, It is within cost as this data should be held in an easily accessible digital format - in this digital age records should be digitised.

3, Your Force should know how many crimes/arrests are made involving academies or dance schools, it is worrying you do not record this data, or have it in an instantly obtainable form - and if your police force cannot issue this data it means it does not know how many crimes happen at dance schools or academies in your patch.

4, It is in the public interest that police forces collect this data (using location markers) in easily accessible formats. If the public cannot find out how many types of these crimes are taking place, how do forces, the community take steps to prevent these crimes from happening?

5, I believe your force must currently hold these figures in an easily retrievable form, otherwise this lack of data, or no knowledge of these crimes would be of interest to the public, i.e. if you do not know who exactly is committing crimes, and where they are specifically from.

6, Your force has given me this data before, in terms of violent crimes in schools and sex crimes.

7, Also last March in relation to violence in schools

Response:

On reviewing the original Freedom of Information request, the response provided and the request for an Internal Review, I uphold the original response / exemption used.

To provide some context, after receiving the Internal Review request, I liaised with our Business Intelligence Department who confirmed that there is no way to automatically gather this data. This is as there is no flag for dance schools, therefore the only way to ascertain this information for the requested time periods would be to manually search and read each and every crime which falls under the 'violence against the person' and 'sexual offences' crime groups. They also stated that this would be over 57,000 crimes and would therefore exceed the 18 hour work limit to locate, retrieve and extract the data requested, which engages Section 12.

Please note that if one Question / part of a Freedom of Information is exempt via Section 12, then this applies to the whole request. Furthermore, different Police Forces may use different recording systems, therefore some may be able to provide information that others cannot.

As per the original response, under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I advise that you could provide a list of addresses for dance premises that you would like us to search on.

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

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.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Yours Sincerely,

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

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/>