



**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 21st July 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026/586

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26th June 2026, concerning violent and sexual offences at dance premises.

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 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)?

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)?

Our response:

The type of information you are requesting is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. Whilst our crime recording systems are fairly sophisticated and contain a number of dedicated fields in which certain information about a crime is recorded (such as victim name, suspect date of birth, witness address etc) and which can theoretically be used to run searches against – we do not have dedicated fields in which we can record whether a crime has occurred at a 'dance premises' (including dance school, dance academy etc) specifically. The likelihood is that the detail of the dance premises would be entered into the crime report.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically locating and manually interrogating every crime recorded under Crime Groups – Violence against the person and Sexual Offences for the period requested so that the relevant information can be extracted. For the period requested, there were 52,391 crimes reported under these two crime groups.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely 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. Therefore, the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note:

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

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Forces may use different recording systems; therefore, it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we advise you to refine your request to a more manageable level. If you were to provide a list of dance premises addresses including postcodes – then the Force may be able to reduce the number of results that need interrogating. This is assuming they are dedicated dance schools and not village halls, leisure centers, schools etc. that would also be used for a multitude of other activities.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

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

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offer a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101



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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 Fol 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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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