

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 13th August 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 716

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31st July 2026 concerning Child Sex Offences by Officers and Staff.

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:

My Research Project is focused on child sex offenders. The term "child sexual offence" would include any sexual offence involving or perpetrated against a child (under 18), including contact and non-contact offences (such as Indecent Images of Children). It would also include any offence committed to facilitate a child sexual offence, such as kidnapping.

Please can you provide me with the following information:

* Since 2016, how many police officers and police staff (including PCSOs and Special Constables) have been convicted of a child sexual offence? Please can you provide both lists.

* Since 2016, how many police officers and police staff (including PCSOs and Special Constables) have been under investigation as a suspect for a child sexual offence, and what were the finalisation codes (i.e. how many were closed due to evidential difficulties/victim withdrew support/charged/other)?

* Since 2016, how many police officers and police staff (including PCSOs and Special Constables) were convicted of a child sexual offence across each month and year?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

* Since 2016, how many police officers and police staff (including PCSOs and Special Constables) were investigated for any criminal offence, had no further action taken, but were later convicted of a child sexual offence?

* Please can you provide me the basic details (name) of any serving or retired police officers and police staff members (including PCSOs and Special Constables) who have been convicted of a child sexual offence since 2016?

* For any specific cases since 2016, is it possible to obtain the body worn video footage of the arrest of any serving or retired police officers and police staff (including PCSOs and Special Constables) who were convicted of a child sexual offence?

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Wiltshire Police record crime in accordance with Home Office Crime Crime Recording guidelines.

Whilst our crime recording systems are fairly sophisticated and contain a number of fields in which certain specifics about a crime are recorded (such as victim name, suspect dob, offence address etc) which can then – theoretically – be used to run searches against, we do not have a field in which we record whether the alleged offender is a member of Police Staff or a Police Officer.

Whilst we do have an “occupation” field, this is not mandatory and in almost all cases this information is not populated (even if it is even known). The reason this field is not mandatory is because there is currently no statutory requirement for any Police Force to physically record this specific information.

The ascertaining of the information you require would only be possible by physically reading every specific crime occurrence log – and accompanying documents such as statements, records of interview etc - to determine whether or not it met your criteria (whether the alleged offender was at some point either a Police Officer or member of Police Staff) and then make a note of the information you require.

The information you require covers a period of 10 years and 7 months (to the end of July 2026).

In any given calendar year, Wiltshire Police record c2000 crimes that are classified as either Rapes or Other Sexual Offences. Looking at 2025 in detail, it would appear that 52% involved a child as the victim and 48% an adult.

For the time period you require therefore, we would potentially be looking at something in the region of 11,000 individual crimes that required locating and reviewing that involved a child as the victim of a sexual offence. Even allowing a very conservative 5 minutes per record to review the log (and any associated documents such as statements or records of interview) I estimate that undertaking this task would entail something in excess of 900 man-hours to complete.

This does not include the further work that would inevitably be required to cross-reference that said raw data with records held on our Professional Standards / Counter Corruption / HR systems to ensure you were provided with accurate information in any response.

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.

Please also 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 due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

I would advise that Wiltshire Police do not hold conviction data of individuals – therefore we would not be able to provide answers to questions 1 and 3 of your request anyway. Under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, we would recommend that you submit an FOI request directly to CPS for this information as they might hold this data.

I would also advise that questions 5 and 6 of your request ask for personal information which – were the whole of this request not already been exempted under Section 12 – would be exempt in themselves under Section 40 of the FOIA covering Personal Data.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I am happy to provide some additional clarification / rationale around why it is impossible to answer your request within permitted timescales. 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 am able to provide is the additional clarification below :-

- Wiltshire Police only hold local data – that is to say crime information for offences that occurred in our geographic area of policing jurisdiction. We do not have access to any data on crimes that may have been committed outside our geographic area – it might be that Officers transferring in or out of Wiltshire Police between 2016 and today may have had criminal activity of this nature in other areas where we would not be able to see that detail.
- Any serving Wiltshire Police officer that is involved in criminal activity (of this nature or any other) is also likely to be subject to some form of internal misconduct process, although this is not 100% guaranteed. Misconduct issues are recorded on our Centurion database – this is a rather clunky legacy database where running searches for information is similarly limiting as our Niche crime recording system. Similarly, Centurion only holds local information not misconduct information for officers transferring in/out that may have happened in another Force area.
- Police Staff are not subject to Misconduct Proceedings in the same way as Officers, so Centurion will not contain any information on those employees that might possibly have been involved in offences of this nature. It is possible that some records related to Police Staff may be held in personnel files within our HR function, but – once again – these cannot be searched in any other way than manually.

- There would be further complexities involved regarding officers that have either left the organisation or retired between 2016 and the current day.
- Any information located either from Centurion, other Professional Standards systems such as iBase, from our Niche crime recording systems OR from other databases in for instance our HR Team would all require extensive cross-referencing and linkages to summarise the information you require – which is simply not possible within the 18-hour period permitted in which to answer this request.

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 in this particular case.

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.

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.

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