

# WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX  
By email

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

**Date** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**Our Ref** FOI 2026-762

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026, concerning Child Sexual Abuse Material 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 Business Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am **not** obliged to supply the information you have requested.

## You wrote:

- a) The total number of recorded offences of indecent images (still or moving) of children and prohibited images of children for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- b) The number of recorded offences which related to pseudo images of children or where Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated child abuse image was detected.
- c) For each offence for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 please break it down by the platform used to commit the offence where known using the following key word search: Snapchat, Facebook/Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, X/Twitter, Kik, TikTok, YouTube, Discord, Skype, Facetime, Roblox, Oculus, VR, Metaverse, Only Fans, Signal, iCloud, iMessage, Dropbox, Mega, Patreon, Reddit, Imgur, and other social media or messaging site, other cloud storage sites and online gaming.
- d) What is the total number of perpetrators linked to the offences in question A?

## Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

*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.*

The information you are requesting - namely for question b) - is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. There is not an automatic way to establish whether a report involved the use of pseudo or AI generated images. The only way to establish whether these types of images were involved would be to manually interrogate each occurrence for the requested period, of which there were more than 400 occurrences. If 10 minutes were allocated per occurrence, which our Business Intelligence department estimates could be an underestimation for some, it would take in excess of 66 hours to complete this task.

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.

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

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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 is documented below:

- a) The total number of recorded offences of indecent images (still or moving) of children and prohibited images of children for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

| Home Office Description                                                               | Count of Occ No |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 086/02 86 Take/make/distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children | 407             |
| 086/10 86 Possession of an indecent or pseudo-photograph of a child                   | 19              |
| 086/15 86 Possessing prohibited images of children                                    | 4               |
| Grand Total                                                                           | 430             |

- c) For each offence for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 please break it down by the platform used to commit the offence where known using the following key word search: Snapchat, Facebook/Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, X/Twitter, Kik, TikTok, YouTube, Discord, Skype, Facetime, Roblox, Oculus, VR, Metaverse, Only Fans, Signal, iCloud, iMessage, Dropbox, Mega, Patreon, Reddit, Imgur, and other social media or messaging site, other cloud storage sites and online gaming.

**Please note: The below data was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms listed in the table. The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.**

| Keyword            | Volume |
|--------------------|--------|
| Snapchat           | 66     |
| Kik                | 49     |
| Discord            | 24     |
| iCloud             | 13     |
| Instagram          | 11     |
| Whatsapp           | 11     |
| Youtube            | 10     |
| Reddit             | 9      |
| Social Media       | 7      |
| Dropbox            | 6      |
| TikTok             | 4      |
| Facetime           | 2      |
| Mega               | 2      |
| VR                 | 1      |
| Imessage           | 1      |
| Facebook/Messenger | 0      |
| X/Twitter          | 0      |
| Skype              | 0      |
| Roblox             | 0      |
| Oculus             | 0      |
| Metaverse          | 0      |
| Onlyfans           | 0      |
| Signal             | 0      |
| Patreon            | 0      |
| Imgur              | 0      |
| Messaging Site     | 0      |
| Cloud Storage      | 0      |
| Online Gaming      | 0      |
| Grand Total        | 216    |

- d) What is the total number of perpetrators linked to the offences in question A?

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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

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,

**FDU Decision Maker**