

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 10/09/2026

Our ref **FOI 2026/802**

Reply contact name is: XXX

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 01/09/2026, concerning Registered Sex Offenders and recorded sexual offences against children within Swindon.

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 it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to Registered Sex Offenders and recorded sexual offences against children within **Swindon**. I would be grateful if the information could, where possible, be provided using consistent definitions, methodology and geographical boundaries for each period so that the figures can be directly compared.

1. Registered Sex Offenders

Please provide the following information for both **2025 and the current position as at the date this request is processed**:

- a)** The total number of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) recorded as residing within **Swindon**.
- b)** Of those Registered Sex Offenders, the number whose index offence(s) involved a **child victim under 18 years of age**, where this information is searchable using offence code, offence category, offence description or other structured data fields.

For the **2025 figure**, please provide the number as at **31 December 2025**, or the nearest available reporting date to 31 December 2025 if an exact year-end figure is not held.

For the **current figure**, please provide the number as at the date this request is processed.

Please provide the information, if possible, in the following format:

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a) 31 December 2025 / nearest available date

Total Registered Sex Offenders:

RSOs whose index offence(s) involved a child victim:

b) Current figure

Total Registered Sex Offenders:

RSOs whose index offence(s) involved a child victim:

2. Recorded Sexual Offences Against Children – 2025

Please provide the **total number of recorded sexual offences against children, where the victim was under 18 years of age, in Swindon during the calendar year 2025.**

Please cover the period:

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Please use the following criteria where applicable:

- Recorded date range: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
- Crime type: Sexual offences
- Location: Swindon
- Victim age: All victims aged under 18

Please include all relevant age categories necessary to capture victims aged **0–17 inclusive**.

3. Geographical Area

If Wiltshire Police is unable to extract this information specifically for **Swindon**, please provide the figures for the **smallest available police, local authority or other geographical area that covers Swindon**, and clearly identify the geographical area used.

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.

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 type of information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval. Wiltshire Police have no historic recorded data which can be broken down into the geographic areas within Wiltshire, so we cannot give numbers for Swindon at any time other than how it stands today.

We are able to offer the following answers though:

Specifically, on this date (07/09/2025) for the Swindon area (covered by the Swindon Team – including Malmesbury & Royal Wootton Bassett)

Total registered Sex Offenders: 397

RSOs whose index offence(s) involved a child victim: 288

There are 343 crime offences. The figure is based on sexual offence crimes that occurred in Swindon and were reported during the 2025 calendar year where the victim was under the age of 18 at the time of reporting. As a result, historic offences are excluded, e.g.

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cases where an individual aged 25 reports a sexual offence that occurred during their childhood or several years earlier.

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 falls 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. In respect of other questions within your request, I cannot think of a way in which you would be able to refine these questions, as they may incite further exemptions dependent on what information we may or may not hold.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide 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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Force 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



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.

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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/>