

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXX – Via email



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 16th September 2026

Our ref: FOI 2026-829

Dear XXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th September regarding non-fatal strangulation and suffocation.

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 Unit at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered, and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and our response):

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide data relating to offences of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation (Home Office offence code 8/77 or equivalent classification used by your force).

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2023 to the most recent date for which complete data is available.

1. Recorded offences

For each calendar year (2023, 2024, 2025 and year-to-date 2026), please provide:

- Total number of recorded non-fatal strangulation and suffocation offences.

Reported.Year	Non Fatal Strangulation
2023	298
2024	469
2025	665
2026	453

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2. Victim demographics

For the same period, please provide the number of offences broken down by:

- Victim sex/gender
- Victim age group
- Victim ethnicity

Please provide counts rather than individual-level data.

VICTIM GENDER	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
F	242	321	434	304	1301
M	56	148	233	150	587
NULL				1	1
U		1	3	2	6

VICTIM AGE	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
1				1	1
2			2		2
3			1		1
4			1	3	4
5	1	1	4	1	7
6		1			1
7	1	1	2		4
8		2	4	3	9
9	1	1	6	5	13
10	1	6	5	8	20
11	3	8	8	10	29
12	5	8	23	9	45
13	3	12	13	7	35
14	7	12	17	13	49
15	3	9	22	13	47
16	6	7	18	8	39
17	3	11	16	15	45
18	8	15	12	5	40

19	2	6	8	10	26
20	5	8	12	3	28
21	9	8	17	10	44
22	7	8	13	7	35
23	11	7	14	10	42
24	10	9	12	6	37
25	13	10	17	5	45
26	9	9	4	9	31
27	9	12	7	10	38
28	7	13	11	12	43
29	4	9	15	6	34
30	8	17	18	16	59
31	7	12	14	13	46
32	8	15	9	10	42
33	13	12	15	8	48
34	4	13	23	15	55
35	9	14	12	10	45
36	10	14	12	12	48
37	13	12	14	12	51
38	11	7	18	17	53
39	5	13	12	14	44
40	10	11	13	8	42
41	5	10	13	9	37
42	9	10	15	7	41
43	3	11	11	4	29
44	3	5	12	6	26
45	3	1	15	7	26
46	1	4	10	3	18
47	2	4	5	5	16
48	8	1	12	4	25

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49	3	8	10	6	27
50	1	8	6	4	19
51	1	7	5	4	17
52	5	2	11	2	20
53	3	5	9	4	21
54	2	3	2	7	14
55	3	9	6	3	21
56	2	2	8	4	16
57	2	1	8	2	13
58	4	2	4	3	13
59	2	5	2	2	11
60	2	1	5	5	13
61		4	6	2	12
62	2	4	4	3	13
63	1	2	2	1	6
64		3	1	1	5
65	1	1	4	1	7
66	1	1	2	3	7
67		4	2	2	8
68			2	3	5
69			1	1	2
70	1	3	3	1	8
71		1	1	1	3
72		2	1		3
73		1			1
74		2	2	1	5
75		1	1		2
76		2	1		3
77		2	2	1	5
78			1		1

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79	1		1	1	3
82	1		1		2
83		1	1	1	3
84			2	1	3
85				1	1
86		1			1
87			2	1	3
89			1	1	2
90			2	1	3
91			2		2
93			1		1
98			1		1
NULL		3	7	14	24

VICTIM ETHNICITY	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
A1. Asian Indian inc Asian British	3	1	2	6	12
A2. Asian Pakistani inc Asian British	2		1	3	6
A3. Asian Bangladeshi inc Asian British			3	1	4
A4. Asian Chinese inc Asian British			2	1	3
A9. Any other Asian background	3	1	5	3	12
B1. Black Caribbean inc Black British	1	4	4	4	13
B2. Black African inc Black British	5	2	17	9	33
B9. Any other Black background	2	4	6	4	16
M1. Mixed White & Black Caribbean	4	1	4	1	10
M2. Mixed White & Black African		2	2	1	5
M3. Mixed White & Asian		5	2	3	10
M9. Any other mixed		3	2	3	8

NS. Not stated	30	57	39	21	147
NULL	42	84	72	67	265
O9. Any other		1	4	2	7
W1. White British	195	297	478	310	1280
W2. White Irish	3	1			4
W3. White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1		2		3
W9. Any other white background	7	7	25	18	57

3. Suspect demographics

For the same period, please provide the number of identified suspects broken down by:

- Sex/gender
- Age group
- Ethnicity

SUSPECT GENDER	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
-				2	2
F	29	58	115	62	264
M	216	345	499	349	1409

SUSPECT AGE	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
10		1		1	2
11	2	4	7	2	15
12	2	3	7	13	25
13	3	10	17	5	35
14	3	10	10	10	33
15	3	9	9	8	29
16		7	6	6	19
17	4	10	11	5	30
18	4	4	10	6	24
19	4	11	6	5	26
20	4	9	6	3	22
21	4	7	11	2	24

22	4	7	9	5	25
23	5	4	7	5	21
24	1	9	11	5	26
25	3	7	11	11	32
26	8	10	14	13	45
27	3	10	10	6	29
28	6	4	14	12	36
29	11	6	7	7	31
30	5	9	12	9	35
31	9	8	8	12	37
32	11	10	10	12	43
33	7	16	13	10	46
34	7	10	17	10	44
35	10	12	21	15	58
36	8	12	13	16	49
37	10	13	18	16	57
38	11	9	15	13	48
39	4	9	21	12	46
40	10	15	23	13	61
41	7	11	17	12	47
42	6	18	18	12	54
43	8	10	14	8	40
44	10	10	15	5	40
45	5	8	18	5	36
46	1	7	12	5	25
47	5	2	12	9	28
48	3	3	11	2	19
49	4	2	7	3	16
50	5	7	9	3	24
51	2	6	6	4	18

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52	4	3	11	4	22
53	2	4	9	2	17
54	2	5	10	2	19
55	4	5	6	5	20
56	2	1	6	10	19
57		3	8	4	15
58		5	1	4	10
59	1	2	2	3	8
60	3		10	3	16
61	2	2	6	3	13
62	1	1	2	3	7
63		1	5	2	8
64		1	3		4
65	1	2	4	1	8
66				2	2
67		2	1	1	4
68			2	2	4
69			3		3
70		1	2	1	4
71		1	3	1	5
72		1	1		2
73			2	1	3
74			2		2
75			2		2
76		3	1	1	5
78		1	2	3	6
79	1	1	2		4
80		1	1		2
81		2			2
82		1	2	1	4

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83				3	3
84		1	2	1	4
85			1		1
87			1		1
88		1	1		2
89			1	2	3
90			1		1
92			2		2
NULL		3	3	12	18

SUSPECT ETHNICITY	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
A1. Asian Indian inc Asian British	5	3	6	4	18
A2. Asian Pakistani inc Asian British		2	5	1	8
A3. Asian Bangladeshi inc Asian British		1	2	2	5
A4. Asian Chinese inc Asian British		1		1	2
A9. Any other Asian background	5	2	3	6	16
B1. Black Caribbean inc Black British	6	3	7	5	21
B2. Black African inc Black British	2	8	17	8	35
B9. Any other Black background	4	2	8	3	17
M1. Mixed White & Black Caribbean	4	3	6	5	18
M2. Mixed White & Black African		4	5	2	11
M3. Mixed White & Asian		1	2	1	4
M9. Any other mixed	3	1	6		10
NS. Not stated	6	22	31	20	79
NULL	24	58	65	61	208
O2. Arab	1	1		1	3

O9. Any other	1		4	2	7
W1. White British	175	273	421	273	1142
W2. White Irish	2	3	2	2	9
W3. White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1			1	2
W9. Any other white background	6	15	24	15	60

4. Domestic abuse

Please provide:

- Number of offences flagged as domestic abuse related.
- Number not flagged as domestic abuse related.

Reported.Year	Non Fatal Strangulation	NICLQualifiers
2023	233	Domestic abuse (ACPO defined)
2024	326	Domestic abuse (ACPO defined)
2025	383	Domestic abuse (ACPO defined)
2026	267	Domestic abuse (ACPO defined)

Reported.Year	Non Fatal Strangulation	NICLQualifiers
2023	2	Not DA
2024	15	Not DA
2025	46	Not DA
2026	13	Not DA

5. Outcomes

Please provide the final recorded outcome for offences recorded during the period, including counts for:

- Charged/summonsed
- Caution
- Community resolution
- Evidential difficulties
- Victim does not support action
- Investigation complete with no suspect identified
- Under investigation
- Any other outcome categories used by the force

Row Labels	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
1: Charged	40	23	28	7	98
1: Summoned/postal requisition	7	9	4		20
10: Police - formal action not in public interest			1		1
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility		2	2	2	6
12: Named suspect identified but is dead or too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	3	7	16	5	31
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	3	2	5	3	13
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	16	26	11		53
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	40	82	165	56	343
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	137	230	292	169	828
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired	1	3	6		10
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	9	7	23	15	54
1A: Alternate offence charged	14	11	23	7	55
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition	1	4	3	2	10
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	9	25	39	18	91
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	1	1		5	7
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.	3	5	2	2	12
3: Adult caution		2			2
3: Adult conditional caution		1	1		2
3A: Alternate offence adult caution	4	3	4	4	15

3A: Alternate offence adult conditional caution	1	3	3	2	9
5: Offender has died	1				1
8: Community resolution	3	10	15	7	35
8: Youth restorative disposal	1	11	13	8	33
New	4	2	9	141	156

6. Repeat victims

Where recorded and retrievable within cost limits, please provide:

- Number of unique victims.
- Number of victims linked to two or more recorded non-fatal strangulation offences during the period.

	Repeat Victims	Unique Victims
2023	6	290
2024	19	449
2025	17	650
2026	17	438

7. Children

Please provide:

- Number of victims aged under 18.
- Number of suspects aged under 18.

VICTIM UNDER 18	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
	35	79	148	105	367

SUSPECT UNDER 18	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
	17	54	67	50	188

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and 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,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker
Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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.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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>