



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 17/09/2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/840

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 11th September 2026 concerning missing people.

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 of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered, and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Your request:

1. How many people in your area went missing between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026? Please provide the numbers **broken down by ethnicity and by age**. In this question we are asking for the number of individuals, not total incidents/investigations:
 - a. 0 – 17 years
 - b. 18+ years
 - c. Unknown age
2. How many total missing investigations were there between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026? Please provide the numbers **broken down by ethnicity and by age**:
 - a. 0-17 years
 - b. 18+ years
 - c. Unknown

3. Please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of missing investigations for **children** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity.
 - a. Found by police
 - b. Returned of their own accord
 - c. Found by another professional
 - d. Other
4. Please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of missing investigations for **adults** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity.
 - a. Found by police
 - b. Returned of their own accord
 - c. Found by another professional
 - d. Other
5. How many missing investigations for **children** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, had a:
 - a. Sexual Exploitation marker
 - b. Criminal Exploitation marker
 - c. Mental health marker
 - d. Trafficking marker
6. How many missing investigations for **adults** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, had a mental health marker?
7. In how many missing investigations for children between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, were the **opening** risk assessment levels:
 - a. High risk
 - b. Medim risk
 - c. Low risk
 - d. No apparent risk
8. In how many missing investigations for adults between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, were the **opening** risk assessment levels:

- a. High risk
- b. Medium risk
- c. Low risk
- d. No apparent risk

9. Please provide the number of missing investigations for **children** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity:

- a. Which lasted more than 48 hours
- b. Which lasted more than 7 days

10. Please provide the number of missing investigations for **children** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity:

- a. Which lasted more than 48 hours
- b. Which lasted more than 7 days

11. In how many missing investigations for **children** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, did harm occur:

- a. Harm suffered
- b. Accidental harm
- c. Emotional harm
- d. Physical injury
- e. Self-harm
- f. Sexual offence victim
- g. Unspecified

12. In how many missing investigations for **adults** between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, did harm occur:

- a. Harm suffered
- b. Accidental harm
- c. Emotional harm

- d. Physical injury
- e. Self-harm
- f. Sexual offence victim
- g. Unspecified

13. In how many missing investigations between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, broken down by ethnicity, was there a fatal outcome:

- a. Child missing incident
- b. Adult missing incident

Response:

The information that you are requesting for Questions 3, 4, 11 and 12 is not stored in a way which allows for easy retrieval and Wiltshire Police does not have the search facility to automatically gather this data. To clarify, our Business Intelligence Unit have confirmed that to ascertain this information for the requested time period would require manually searching and reading each and every missing episode occurrence individually for the requested time period. This would exceed the 18 hour work limit to locate, retrieve and extract the information, engaging Section 12.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I would advise you of a way in which to refine your request. However, due to the difficulties 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:

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Ethnicity Group	18 and Over	Unknown	Under 18
-	140	3	68
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	5	-	7
Asian or Asian British	7	-	16
Black or Black British	7	-	17
Mixed	11	-	24
Not Stated	37	-	10
White	344	1	393

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Ethnicity Group	18 and Over	Unknown	Under 18
-	178	3	115

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Arab or Other Ethnic Group	6	0	13
Asian or Asian British	8	0	30
Black or Black British	9	0	71
Mixed	12	0	81
Not Stated	45	0	10
White	427	1	914

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a.Sexual Exploitation marker

Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	2
Mixed	3
White	57

b.Criminal Exploitation marker

Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	1
Black or Black British	18
Mixed	1
White	83

c.Mental health marker

Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	19
Asian or Asian British	13
Black or Black British	11
Mixed	8
White	301

d.Trafficking marker

The Force do not have a mental health marker

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Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	81
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	2
Asian or Asian British	4
Black or Black British	4
Mixed	4
Not Stated	17
White	211

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Ethnicity Group	NO RISK	HIGH	LOW	MED
-	0	34	3	78
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	1	1	0	11
Asian or Asian British	0	7	0	23
Black or Black British	1	32	0	38
Mixed	1	23	0	57
Not Stated	0	5	0	5
White	4	394	2	514

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Ethnicity Group	NO RISK	HIGH	LOW	MED
-	1	106	10	61
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	0	4	0	2
Asian or Asian British	0	3	0	5
Black or Black British	0	3	1	5
Mixed	0	6	0	6
Not Stated	0	21	5	19
White	2	233	24	168

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a. Which lasted more than 48 hours

Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	7
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	2
Asian or Asian British	4
Black or Black British	3
Mixed	3
Not Stated	1
White	21

b. Which lasted more than 7 days
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Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
Not Stated	1

10

a. Which lasted more than 48 hours

Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	15
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	3
Asian or Asian British	2
Mixed	2
Not Stated	2
White	28

b. Which lasted more than 7 days

Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	8
Asian or Asian British	1
White	2

13

a. Child missing incident - none

b. Adult missing incident

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Ethnicity Group	Missing Reports
-	4
White	5

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

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.

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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

Maria Evans
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



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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
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/>