

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 28th September 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-883

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd September 2026, concerning sexual offences on trains.

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:

Please provide the following information for the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26:

1. The total number of reported sexual offences recorded as having taken place on board a train

2. A breakdown of these offences by offence type, where available, including:

- Sexual assault
- Sexual assault by penetration
- Rape
- Indecent exposure
- Sexual harassment
- Other sexual offences

3. Where available, please provide the number of offences involving:

- A passenger being sexually assaulted by another passenger
- A passenger being sexually assaulted by a member of railway staff
- A passenger being sexually assaulted by another person known to them
- An offender whose relationship to the victim was unknown

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4. Please provide the number of recorded offences that resulted in:

- An arrest
- A charge
- No further action
- An ongoing investigation

Our response:

Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requires Wiltshire Police to confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. To establish whether the information is held - namely whether a sexual offence occurred on a train - would in itself exceed the time obligations placed upon the authority to comply (18 hours) and therefore engages section 12(2). There is not a way to establish whether an offence occurred on a train, therefore a manual review of all sexual offences reported between 2023/24 and 2025/26 would be required. There were 7309 occurrences during this time. Additionally, even though Wiltshire Police may have attended an incident, British Transport Police would be the primary investigating body if the offence occurred whilst on a train.

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.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you contact British Transport Police as they may be able to assist with your request.

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

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