WILTSHIRE POLICE

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

XXX
Sent via email: XXX

Date: 17/11/26 **Our ref:** FOI 2026/1025

Reply contact name is: XXX

Dear XXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/10/26 concerning arrests for sexual 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.

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

You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or, for Police Scotland, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002), please provide the following for each financial year 2024-25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) and 2025-26 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026):

1.
The number of arrests for sexual offences, broken down by the nationality of the person arrested as recorded in custody. By sexual offences I mean rape and other sexual offences as defined in the Home Office crime classifications, including online offences. Please include British nationals and a separate line for "nationality not recorded".

2.
Of the arrests in question 1, the number that resulted in a charge (or postal requisition), broken down by nationality in the same way.

3.
If possible, questions 1 and 2 split into (a) rape and (b) other sexual offences.

Response:

The information that you are requesting is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(1) – Investigations

Section 30 is a prejudice based and qualified exemption, therefore the harm (prejudice) in disclosure should be evidenced and the public interest given.

Overall Harm

Although every effort should be made to release information under the Freedom of Information Act, to disclose this type of information would prejudice any investigations, whether current or future. Although there is a public interest in the transparency of policing, especially in relation to investigations, this is countered by the need to protect any current or future investigations.

Furthermore, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations. This, in turn, would reassure the public that the police are highly secure and would not disclose any information to the world, not just the requester, which may jeopardise any investigation.

Public Interest Considerations

Section 30

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better-informed public and promote trust by demonstrating openness, transparency and accountability.

Factors Against Disclosure

Disclosing this information would provide to the world, not just the requester, information which may prejudice current or future investigations. This would highlight that Wiltshire Police does not take the security and integrity of its investigations seriously, which would cause a large drop in public confidence. This would lead to people not wanting to report incidents and engage with police investigations.

Balance Test

The above points highlight both the merits and issues with disclosing the requested information. Overall, the police service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Because of this, Wiltshire Police will not divulge any information if to do so would prejudice our investigative capabilities.

The public interest is very largely in favour of non-disclosure for these reasons.

This would only be overridden in exceptional circumstances, which this Freedom of Information request is not.

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.

Exemptions applied:

Section 30(1) – Investigations

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

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.

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/