WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 12th November 2026 Your ref: FOI Our ref: FOI 2026 / 1082

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th November 2026 concerning pre-charge engagement with suspects.

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, please provide the following for crimes recorded between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025:

Does the force record, in any system or field, whether pre-charge engagement with a suspect or their representative took place? If so, please name the system or field.

If so, for domestic abuse-flagged crimes of common assault, actual bodily harm, and coercive or controlling behaviour only, please state the number of cases where pre-charge engagement was recorded.

For those cases, please give the number by outcome, using these groups only:

Charged or summonsed

No further action

Other or still under investigation

For comparison, please give the same outcome breakdown (using the same three groups) for all domestic abuse-flagged crimes of those three offence types in the same period.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for the majority of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime recording syetems are fairly sophisticated and contain a number of dedicated fields in which certain specifics about a crime are recorded (such as victim name, suspect dob, offence address and so on) – and which can then, theoretically be used to run searches against – we do not have a dedicated field in which we record any of the following :-

a) Whether pre-charge engagement has been made with the suspect
b) Whether pre-charge engagement has been made with their legal representative
c) Whether pre-charge advice has been sought from CPS or other external bodies

If held, this information would only be contained in either the narrative of the crime occurrence log OR various accompanying documentation – neither of which can be searched via any automatic means.

The only way of identifying the information you require is to review the occurrence log and accompanying paperwork for any crimes that fit into your criteria for 2025 to determine whether any any pre-charge engagement had occurred (and of so with who). Then we would need to the outcomes for each of those crimes that met your criteria.

During 2025, Wiltshire Police have recorded 42,688 individual crimes, 7,011 of which related to Common Assault / ABH / Controlling & Coercive Behaviour, of which 2,208 met your criteria of being flagged as DA related.

Even allowing a very conservative 3 minutes per record in order to accomplish this task, I estimate that it would take in excess of 110 man-hours to review each of those specific requests.

Under the circumstances, therefore, 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.

Please also note that 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.

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 am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

	2025	
Offence	**Crimes**	**Crimes with DA flag**
Common Assault	6371	1861
ABH	290	2
Controlling Coercive Behaviour	350	345
Total	**7011**	**2208**

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

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

(1) 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.

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,

Nick Penny
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
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.pnn.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