

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXX – by E mail

Date: 12th March 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 170

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd February 2021 concerning Animal Welfare Legislation.

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 – having consulted our Wildlife Crime Team and Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

1. What does the police service do if they receive any reports of animal cruelty under either section 4 or section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006?

- ☐ Record the incident only and no further action
- ☐ Record the incident and pass on to the appropriate council
- ☐ Record the incident and pass on to the RSPCA
- ☐ Record the incident and investigate
- ☐ Other (please explain below)

The incidents are recorded on our Niche Crime Recording system (if a Crime has occurred), the RSPCA are liaised with and Wiltshire Police either lead or assist with any subsequent investigation (if required).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

2. Does the police service have any members trained in animal welfare legislation? And if so how many and what aspects, e.g. pet animals, dogs, wildlife, etc?

All Rural Crime Team Officers attend a Wildlife Crime course, but within that, there is minimal input in respect of specific Animal Welfare Legislation.

3. How many incident complaints has the police service received under the national incident category list of “animals/wildlife” (as per the National Standard for Incident Reporting) for each year for the last ten years? (Please use the table below)

Year Total number of incident reports

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

2015

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

Whilst our Storm System (which is used to record incidents) holds data back to 2010, our IT applications that are used to access and search that data can – currently – only go back as far as 2015.

The number of Incidents reported to Wiltshire Police by year, since 2015, have been as follows :-

Category	Incident Reports							Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
ANIMALS / WILDLIFE	925	1165	1123	1182	970	864	103	6332
PETS / DOMESTICATED ANIMALS	826	783	681	577	545	391	49	3852
Total	1751	1948	1804	1759	1515	1255	152	10184

For years 2010 – 2014 our answer is – No Information Held.

Note – under FOI there is no obligation on an Authority to create data where none currently exists today in order to answer an FOI request.

4. Does the police service filter such incidents to specific teams within the service to assess and respond to accordingly?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please explain below)

When our Control Room receive reports of Incidents they are assessed and then allocated either directly to the appropriate Team to deal (eg CID, Public Protection Team, Rural Crime Team and so on) or to the CPT (Community Policing Team) that covers the specific geographical area that the call relates to.

5. Does the police service use any sub-categories for recording such incidents, for example 'cruelty', 'pet animal', etc? If so please can you share below.

Within our Storm System (which records incident reports) we generally split reports into one of two categories – either “Animals/Wildlife” or “Pets/Domesticated Animals”. This is not reflected with how we record crimes involving animals however.

All Crime Reports involving animals are recorded either under Home Office Code 96 (Wildlife) or as what we call a Summary Offence. A Summary Offence is a general crime “pot” which is used for offences that do not easily fit it one of the formal structured Crime Categories. As a consequence, this “pot” of other crime can contain numerous records (which are not easily searched as they have no specific classification).

Also, within our Crime Recording System we have local qualifiers that we can choose on our system(s) to record whether a crime is related to one of the following – “Equine”, “Hair Coursing” or “Lamping”.

Note, this is a local qualifier, other Forces probably have their own local qualifiers. These are not a National Requirement for Police Forces.

6. How many crimes has the police service recorded under the national incident category list of “animals/wildlife” (as per the National Standard for Incident Reporting) for each year for the last ten years?

Total number of crime reports

2020, 2019,2018,2017,2016,2015,2014,2013,2012,2011,2010

The total number of Crime Reports per year as recorded under Home Office Code 96 (Wildlife) is as follows :-

Year	Crimes
2010	0
2011	0
2012	0

2013	0
2014	0
2015	1
2016	2
2017	0
2018	2
2019	2
2020	6

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