

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

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

Date: 19 March 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021/249

Reply contact name is: Ellie James

Dear *****,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18 march 2021 concerning dog thefts.

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:

1. Please could you tell me the number of dog thefts recorded by police by individual month, for the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 (to the latest month available).
2. Could you also please tell me the number of outcomes for dog thefts recorded in the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020, and the outcome group. This would include: charged/summons, , evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action), evidential difficulties (victim does not support action), further investigation not in the public interest, investigation complete (no suspect identified), not yet assigned an outcome, out of court (informal), out of court (formal), prosecution prevented or not in the public interest), responsibility for further investigation transferred to another body, taken into consideration.
3. If available, could you also please provide a count of dog thefts by breed in each year from 2018 to 2020.
4. If you are unable to provide monthly breakdowns, please provide the 2020 figures that are currently available, alongside figures for the corresponding period in 2018 and 2019 - for instance, if you have figures for January to November 2020, please provide figures for Jan-Nov in both 2018 and 2019.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

Wiltshire Police record each report of theft reported to them, including the theft of dogs. These may be recorded under 'Theft from the Person' or 'Other Theft' as there is no specific animal/dog flag. This means that the information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

In order to obtain the information you are requesting, we would need to open each record of 'Theft from the Person' and 'Other Theft' for the period specified and identify whether it was a dog that was stolen. For context, in 2020 alone the reports in these categories is will into the thousands

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.

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,

Ellie James

Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure, details can be found on the following page.



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