

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 6th April 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 289

Reply contact name is: Kerry Merritt

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th March 2021 concerning Wiltshire Police Dogs.

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 Dog Unit I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

Please enclose the number of Police, Military or working dogs destroyed in the years 2015-2021

Please include retired dogs.

Please detail the information in a table format, detailing:

- The age of the dog
- The reason for euthanising it
- The years of service of the dog

Please also include the following under the FOI act.

- instances of police dogs attacking civilians
- instances of police dogs attacking police officers
- The resulting action taken on dogs who have attacked officers
- The resulting action taken on dogs who have attacked civilians

Our response:

Please note: As for the language used in your request, for example, dogs that have been “destroyed”, and also dogs “attacking” people. I have been advised that these are not words our unit would use, or indeed record any occurrences.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

All decisions taken in relation to animal welfare are based upon Veterinary treatments and advice. Since the date in question we have had one dog Euthanised prior to its natural death:

2021 Working dog, 7 years old, 6 years service. Euthanised due to Chronic Bowell condition.

In terms of Dog Bites, there haven't been any "attacks" on either Civilians or Police Officers. There have been a number of times Police Dogs have been deployed to bite, in accordance with law, or an occasional accidental bite.

2015	No record available	
2016	Two recorded bites on offenders.	NFA in relation to the bites, correct use of Force.
2017	Two recorded bites on offenders	NFA as above
2018	Seven recorded bites on offenders	NFA as above
2019	Two recorded bites on offenders	NFA as above
2020	Six recorded bites on Offenders	NFA as above
2020	1 Accidental bite on Police Office	NFA occurred in Training.
2021	None recorded to date.	

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,

Kerry Merritt
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