

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.ukDate: 16th June 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 454

Reply contact name is: Kerry Merritt

Dear *****,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th May 2021 concerning Body Worn Video on Dog Handlers.

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 Section, Finance and our Insurance and Litigation Department am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am currently undertaking a master's level research project into the area of Police Dog deployment and Body Worn Video (BWV) and would be grateful if you would please provide the following information:

1. Is BWV currently used by dog handlers within your force?
2. When was it introduced and is it mandatory?
3. Please confirm the number of police dog bite incidents involving members of the public (including suspects and detainees) in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.
4. Please confirm the number of complaints made by the public regarding a police dog bite incident in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.
5. Please confirm the amount of money paid out in compensation to members of the public who have been bitten by a police dog in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

1. Is BWV currently used by dog handlers within your force? **Yes**
2. When was it introduced and is it mandatory? **It has been in use for around 4 years and is mandatory.**
3. Please confirm the number of police dog bite incidents involving members of the public (including suspects and detainees) in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.
2014 = 2
2015 = 3
2016 = 1
2017 = 3
2018 = 6
2019 = 2
2020 = 10
4. Please confirm the number of complaints made by the public regarding a police dog bite incident in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.
February 2014 x 1
July 2015 x 1
February 2016 x 1
September 2018 x 1
January 2020 x 1
5. Please confirm the amount of money paid out in compensation to members of the public who have been bitten by a police dog in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21. **We haven't paid out any money to members of the public following a dog bite for the periods requested.**

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 Fol 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