

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

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

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 1st December 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 1002

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th November 2021 concerning our Canine Unit.

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 - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am seeking information as to the number of Canine units (by which I mean individual dogs) in each of the below categories. I am aware a lot of the answers will be 0.

1) Total number of Dogs in service during the period. By in service I mean the equivalent of employed. I am indifferent as to whether this is a count of Dogs "employed" on the first of each month or all dogs employed at any time during the month as long as it is specified which.

2) Died whilst still in service. by which I mean any cause of death at any time of a dog who is still the equivalent of employed

3) Died whilst in active service. By which I mean any cause of death at a time whilst performing the duties of a canine unit or in transit to same, the equivalent of a police officer being on duty/on the clock

3)b) For these dogs, if there is a categorisation of causes of death I would appreciate the breakdown (e.g. Natural Causes, Road Traffic Accident, Suspect violence, Officer Accident). I appreciate this level of data may not exist.

For all of the above I would prefer the volumes to be monthly but if they can only be summarised in larger units, could exact start and end dates of each time period be specified. If data doesn't



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

extend back to 2016 as long a period as you have accurate data for would be appreciated.

Whilst I am aware there are legal deadlines for responding FOIs I also appreciate that COVID is putting pressure on frontline and back office staff and so in as far as it is meaningful I am happy for those deadline periods to be doubled if I am contacted to be told they will need to be in advance. If any further clarification is required I'm happy to discuss with either your FOI team or Data Analysts.

Our response:

Wiltshire Police do not hold details of the number of operational dogs we have in our Canine Section on a month by month basis – **No Information Held.**

However, under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, I can provide context in terms of the dogs we do have and answer your questions providing totals per annum of dogs in our unit.

Wiltshire Police have a mixture of General Purpose Dogs and Specialist Dogs in our Dog Section.

We operate with an establishment of 13 General Purpose Dogs – these are animals that search for people and their belongings. This number has remained consistent for the last 5 years. During the course of a given calendar year this number may vary slightly due to retirements of animals and training courses for instance, but these are only sporadic and the operational number remains the same .

The number and disciplines of our Specialist Dogs has varied over the last 5 years between 10 and 11.

Question 1

The table below provides you with details of the Dogs in our Dog Section (by type) for the last 6 years :-

		Specialist Dogs			
Year	General Purpose Dogs	Drugs	Explosives	Digital Detection	TOTAL
2016	13	8	2	-	23
2017	13	8	2	-	23
2018	13	8	2	-	23
2019	13	8	2	-	23
2020	13	7	2	2	24
2021	13	6	2	2	23

Question 2

One animal, in 2021.

Question 3

Nil

Question 3b

Not applicable by virtue of our answer to Q3.

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