

**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 email

Date: 15th October 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 843

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th October 2021 concerning Dangerous 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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

Please provide the following information for the years 2016 to 2020 inclusive:

1. The number of suspected Section 1 dogs seized by your Police Force under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (DDA)
 - a. Of the dogs seized as prohibited types, how many deemed by the courts as being of each of the four different banned types.
 - b. Of the dogs seized as prohibited types, how many deemed by the courts as being Pit Bull Terriers
 - c. Of the dogs seized as prohibited types, how many deemed by the courts as being Dogo Argentino
 - d. Of the dogs seized as prohibited types, how many deemed by the courts as being Japanese Tosa
 - e. Of the dogs seized as prohibited types, how many deemed by the courts as being Fila Brasileiro
2. How many offences under Section 3 of the DDA did your Police Force pursue, and of these how many included a dog of a type prescribed under Section 1 of the DDA?
 - a. For each dog involved in an Section 3 offence, what was their breed or type?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for Question 2a of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our Crime Recording systems are sophisticated we do not have a separate field in which we record the breed of dogs involved in offences under Section 3 of the DDA or involved in any given incident.

The only way to ascertain this information would be to access each of the crime occurrence logs involved for the time period you require and physically read the crime log in order to verify whether that information was recorded anywhere and then make a note of it.

Given that there have been 1,312 offences recorded in the 5-year period you require – and allowing a generous 3 minutes per record - 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.

Please Note

It needs to be noted (also) that there is no obligation on an Authority to create information in order to answer an FOI request where that information doesn't already exist.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below :-

Question 1

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
8	12	7	7	11

1 a

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
4	5	2	3	6

1 b

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
4	5	2	3	6

1 c

Nil

1 d

Nil

1 e

Nil

Question 2

There have been 1,312 offences pursued under Section 3 of the DDA for the time period you have requested. Broken down by year these are as follows :-

2016	231
2017	250
2018	255
2019	283
2020	293

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of questions 2 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,

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 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