

**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: 16th June 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 495

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th June 2022 concerning Seizures of 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 Dogs Section & Finance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am trying to find out if the increase in the number of dogs purchased during the pandemic has led to police forces having to spend more time and resources responding to incidents involving aggressive or dangerous dogs.

Please could I have the details for these four questions by calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and for (part of) 2022.

Please can you tell me:

- Q1: The numbers of dogs seized by your police force (dogs that are out of control, aggressive, have attacked someone or are considered dangerous) from 2017 to 2022?
- Q2: How many dogs have been put down/destroyed in your force area from 2017 to 2022?
- Q3: How many suspected banned breeds of dogs have been seized by your force from 2017 to 2022?
- Q4: What is the annual cost to your force of kennels, veterinary treatment, and of putting down/destroying these dogs? (From 2017 to 2022).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our response:

The information you require is shown in the tables below :-

	Volumes per year					
Wiltshire Police	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (to date)
Q1 The numbers of dogs seized (out of control, aggressive or dangerous dogs)	13	7	15	15	26	9
Q2: The number of dogs which have been put down/destroyed	6	1	3	7	5	3
Q3: The number of suspected banned breeds of dogs that have been seized	5	2	3	6	10	3

	Financial Year					
Wiltshire Police	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Q4: The annual cost of kennels, veterinary treatment, and putting down/destroying dogs	£5,414.43	£20,045.74	£38,096.09	£29,109.65	£33,437.05	£36,244.98

Please Note :-

The volumes provided for Questions 1,2 and 3 are up to and including 13th May 2022.

The values provided for Question 4 are for each respective Financial Year. We do not hold this information by calendar year and there is no obligation on an Authority to create data where it does not exist today simply to answer an FOI request.

There have been increased costs experienced during the period of Covid due to us having to retain dogs for longer periods waiting for Court dates.

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