



Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 11th January 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/043

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10th January 2023 concerning dog related offences.

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 – original request (FOI 2023/004):

I would like to know the number of dog related offences for the calendar year 2022, under the code 008/21.

Current request:

I'd like to request additional information.

Can you supply information or data breakdowns regarding the relationship between the victim(s) of the attack and the owner of the dog in question? E.g. family member / sibling / stranger?

Please contact me to advise further if the information is recorded in a particular way that requires me to alter my request.

If this is possible, I'd like the information for the years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. I have already requested the total numbers of attacks under code 008/21, I am now seeking further information about these attacks, if it is available and accessible within the parameters of the FOI act.

Our response:

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The information that you are requesting regarding the relationship between the victim(s) and owner(s) of dog offences is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because there is no tag or flag held within our crime recording systems that we can easily search on that would enable us to locate and retrieve this information. As a result, the only way in which we would be able to determine what the relationship was between the victim(s) and owner(s) of dog offences under the Home Office code 008/21, would be to physically trawl through each call log and crime report held for those crimes for the time frame requested.

As there are 398 crimes for the year 2022 alone to manually peruse (as per the response provided to you for your original request, reference FOI 2023/004), this in itself would take us well over the allocated time frame we have to complete your request within and is therefore, exempt from disclosure.

Under the circumstances 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, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. As discussed with you over the phone, it was offered that we could look to provide you with the figures of dog offences under the Home Office code 008/21 that have taken place for the previous years requested (2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021), however, you confirmed that you already have these figures and a result, for the remainder of your request – I cannot see a way in which this can be refined.

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.

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Yours sincerely,

Force 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

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.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.

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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