



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by email

Date: 20th September 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 907

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th September 2023 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 figures under the Freedom of Information Act for each year from 2018 to the most recent complete month of 2023.

- 1) The number of times the offence of an 'out of control dog causing injury' (008/21) has been recorded.
- 2) Please provide the data from Q1 split by victim demographics, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Age
 - b) Gender
 - c) Ethnicity
 - d) Relationship between victim and suspect
- 3) The data from Q1 split by outcome
- 4) If available, please also provide the data from Q1 split by dog breed.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for Q4 of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have a number of separate fields in which we record information relevant to a crime or incident (and which can then theoretically be searched on for instance), we do not have a field in which we record the breed of dog involved in a given crime.

This information would only be held in either the summary description or the actual occurrence log narrative of the given offence, or possibly recorded in accompanying paperwork such as statements taken at the time. Indeed, it is very possible that the breed of dog that has been involved in an incident may not even have been recorded at all.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reading every occurrence log (and/or the other associated paperwork) and making a record of the various breeds involved, if this is known.

Given the sheer volume of crimes recorded under Home Office Code 008/21 for the time period you require (nearly 2000 crimes) 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.

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

The number of times the offence 008/21 has been recorded have been as follows :-

Year	Crimes
2018	255
2019	282
2020	293
2021	354
2022	392
2023	278
Total	1854

Question 2

The data from Q1, split by Victim Demographics have been as follows :-

By Age

Age	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
0		2	6	4	4	2	18
1	4	5	5	12	5	2	33
2	1	11	11	7	10	5	45

3	7	4	8	5	10	2	36
4	2	8	4	9	11	5	39
5	1	10	7	6	5	7	36
6	3	9	8	2	14	5	41
7	1	10	10	4	6	8	39
8	2	5	3	6	10	5	31
9	9	5	6	13	9	5	47
10	2	3	5	4	9	4	27
11	8	7	6	6	9	4	40
12	2	3	5	5	9	2	26
13	6	6	5	5	4	5	31
14	2	5	6	4	3	4	24
15	2	4		2	8	6	22
16	2	4	4	1	6	3	20
17		2	2	4	3	4	15
18		1	2	2	3	1	9
19	2	1	2	1	3	2	11
20	1	2	1	5	2	1	12
21	2	4	1	5	3	2	17
22		2	3	3		2	10
23	1	1	3		2	2	9
24	1	3	1	4	1		10
25	2	1		2	5	2	12
26	2	1	3	2	4	2	14
27	6	1	2	5	5	3	22
28	4	4	2	4	6	1	21
29	5	4	3	6	4	4	26
30	3	4	1	4	2	4	18
31	6		3	2	4	6	21
32	7	2	6	6	4	1	26
33	4	4	6	3	4	2	23
34	4	2	3	5	4	2	20
35	3	3	1	3	4	2	16
36	2	2	3	8	7	5	27
37	5	2	3	3	3	4	20
38		2	3	3	4		12
39	5	2	3	3	2	3	18
40	3	3	5	3	2	6	22
41	3	1	2	2	4	4	16
42	3	2	3	3	4	4	19
43	4	3	2	5	2	6	22
44	7	3	5	6	4	3	28
45	8	2	7	3	2	9	31
46	3	4	8	3	6	10	34
47	9	1	2	5	7	3	27
48	6	8	3	5	5	5	32
49	5	6	8	4	1	5	29
50	5	6	2	5	10	7	35

51	7	5	3	4	4	7	30
52	2	7	6	4	5	6	30
53	6	4	3	7	3	2	25
54	1	7	3	11	5	2	29
55	8	4	5	5	6	4	32
56	4	5	2	9	9	1	30
57	6	5	3	4	3	5	26
58	1	5	3	3	6	6	24
59	2	4	7	4	6	2	25
60	2	5	4	10	8	2	31
61	2	5	10	3	5	4	29
62	5	3	4	5	5	7	29
63	3	2	4	5	8	2	24
64	1		5	5	4	3	18
65	4	3	1	1	5	2	16
66	4	3	2	3	3	1	16
67	1	1	2	1			5
68		1		6	1	7	15
69		2	1	2	2	1	8
70	2	2	3	2	4		13
71		2		1	1	3	7
72		3		1	2	1	7
73	3			5	1	1	10
74			1	3	2		6
75	1	2	2	1	4	1	11
76	1		2	1	3	2	9
77	1		2	2	1	1	7
78				1	3	1	5
79	1	1	1		1		4
80	1		1	4		1	7
81		2			4		6
82	1	1		2			4
83			1	1	1	1	4
84			1		1	1	3
85				1			1
87			1		1		2
88		1			2		3
89				1			1
90						1	1
93					1		1
95			1				1
Not Stated	10	7	6	14	14	9	60
Total	255	282	293	354	392	278	1854

By Gender

Gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Female	108	132	134	167	194	152	887
Male	145	150	158	187	198	125	963
Unrecorded	2		1			1	1
Total	255	282	293	354	392	278	1854

By Ethnicity

Self-Defined Ethnicity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
A1. Indian	1			1			2
A3. Bangladeshi		1			1		2
A4. Chinese						1	1
A9. Any other Asian background	2		1	2	3		8
B1. Caribbean			1				1
B2. African			1				1
B9. Any other Black background				1	1	1	3
M1. White and Black Caribbean						1	1
M2. White and Black African			1				1
M3. White and Asian						2	2
M9. Any other mixed			1	1			2
NS. Not stated	51	59	56	77	96	55	394
Blank	125	154	159	188	188	143	957
O9. Any other	1			1			2
W1. British	70	67	73	82	101	70	463
W2. Irish	1			1			2
W9. Any other white background	4	1			2	5	12
Total	255	282	293	354	392	278	1854

By relationship

Relationship	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Acquaintance	18	17	17	18	20	14	104
Aunt		1	2		5		8
Brother (incl. step/half/adopted)	2				1		3
Carer					1		1
Cousin	1	1		1			3
Daughter (incl. step/half/adopted)		1			2	1	4
Ex spouse/partner				1	2	1	4
Family - other	1		3	3	5	1	13
Father (incl. step/half/adopted)	1		1		5	5	12
Grandchild (incl. step/adopted)	1						1
Grandparent (incl. step/adopted)	2	4	3	4	7	4	24
Mother (incl. step/half/adopted)	1	6	11	3	12	5	38
Neighbour	26	29	23	28	34	27	167
Nephew			2				2
Niece	1						1
None	129	154	164	214	214	155	1030
NULL	1	1		1		1	4
Other	10	17	7	14	20	8	76
Sister (incl. step/half/adopted)				1		1	2
Son (incl. step/half/adopted)		1		3	2	2	8
Spouse/partner	1		3	1			5
Stranger - seen but not known	60	50	56	60	61	52	339
Uncle			1	2	1	1	5
Total	255	282	293	354	392	278	1854

Question 3

The data from Q1 split by Outcome has been as follows :-

Outcome	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1: Charged	2		2		1		5
1: Summoned/postal requisition	6	7	12	14	5	1	45
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	1	2	2	2	3		10
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	10	3	2	22	17	4	58
15. Named suspect ID-victim supports but ED	14						14
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1		1	1			3
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	91	106	96	151	165	59	668
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	41	56	63	48	84	49	341
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	49	57	70	70	72	66	384
1A. Suspect charged with an alternative offence	1						1
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition		1			3	1	5
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	14	23	20	20	25	21	123
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	6	8	9	5	2		30
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.					2		2
3. Caution-adults	1						1
3: Adult caution	1	1	1				3
3: Adult conditional caution	2		2	1			5
8: Community resolution	15	16	10	10	6	19	76
New		2	3	10	7	58	80
Grand Total	255	282	293	354	392	278	1854

Please Note

- There is no obligation on a victim of a crime to provide either their age, gender or Self-Defined Ethnicity – or for Wiltshire Police to record it. In those instances, data will be shown in the above table as either “Null” , “Not Stated” , “Unknown” etc.
- There is no obligation for Wiltshire Police to record the relationship between victim and offender – and in some instances it may either not be known or the victim may not want to provide it. In those instances, data will be shown in the above table as “Null”.

- There are some occurrences reported which are still ongoing live investigations – these are shown in the Outcomes Table as “New”.

Ordinarily under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request in respect of question 4 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



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