

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 05/10/2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/911**

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/09/2023 concerning dog attacks.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Business Intelligence Team at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

1. Please could you provide me with the number of reports of dog attacks (i.e. owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control within your County (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog).
2. Please can you provide the number of reported incidents FROM January 2023 to present date.
3. Can you confirm the number deaths related to dog attacks.
3. Please can you provide a breakdown of the figure for each time period by recorded outcomes (e.g. number of Charge/Summons, Community Resolution etc).
4. can you positively confirm the breed of dogs involved in dog attacks;
5. can you positively confirm the breed of dogs involved in dog attacks that lead to a persons death.
6. Can you confirm who assessed these dogs were XL Bullies and what criteria they used to do so.

Response

Please note that Wiltshire police are unable to provide the details on the breed of dog involved as in some cases this may not have been accurately documented (for example

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dogs can be referred to as a 'German Sheppard type' or a 'Staffy type' & no confirmation of the actual breed is made) To gain information of the breed of dogs involved we would need to read through every relevant report which would take in excess of our time / cost limits. However, I can supply the following information.

Detection Status	2022	2023
Totals	284	322
1: Charged	1	0
1: Summoned/postal requisition	3	1
1A: Alternate offence summoned/postal requisition	2	1
8: Community resolution	3	19
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	3	0
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	12	5
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	108	59
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	53	49
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	44	66
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	15	21
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	2	0
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.	1	0
Cancelled/transferred	32	20
New	4	81
Other incident non crime	1	0

There are no deaths related to dog attacks

Data includes crimes & non crime incidents 01/01/2023 – 20/09/2023

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

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.

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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.

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

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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>