

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 9th November 2023

Our Ref FOI 2023-1008

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th October 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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Dogs Section and Business Intelligence department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote and our response:

1. Could you kindly confirm whether your force records dog attacks, as per section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act (DDA), as distinct offences in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS)?

Yes

2. I would appreciate if you could provide a month-by-month breakdown of the number of attacks recorded from January 1, 2020, to the present date. The nearest month end data would be acceptable.

Please note: This data includes both crime and non-crime incidents relating to the following offences:

- ❖ In charge of dog out of control in ANY place injuring any person or assistance dog
- ❖ Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in E&W (whether or not in public place) injuring any person or assistance dog

Reported Month Year	Occurrences
Jan-2020	25
Feb-2020	20

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Mar-2020	24
Apr-2020	21
May-2020	28
Jun-2020	28
Jul-2020	25
Aug-2020	28
Sep-2020	29
Oct-2020	23
Nov-2020	33
Dec-2020	25
Jan-2021	25
Feb-2021	15
Mar-2021	28
Apr-2021	26
May-2021	32
Jun-2021	35
Jul-2021	36
Aug-2021	47
Sep-2021	31
Oct-2021	25
Nov-2021	37
Dec-2021	42
Jan-2022	38
Feb-2022	31
Mar-2022	25
Apr-2022	44
May-2022	37
Jun-2022	49
Jul-2022	48
Aug-2022	37
Sep-2022	45
Oct-2022	47
Nov-2022	21
Dec-2022	15
Jan-2023	25
Feb-2023	25
Mar-2023	35
Apr-2023	34
May-2023	46
Jun-2023	46
Jul-2023	42
Aug-2023	42
Sep-2023	46

3. In the aftermath of these recorded attacks, could you provide information on the number of dogs that were seized and subsequently assessed?

The section used to seize the dog would determine whether Wiltshire Police conduct the assessment. Wiltshire Police do not carry out behavioural assessments on a Section 3 seized dog - it is for the defendant to provide the dog is not dangerous.

Month	Total Seized
2020	9
Jan	3
Feb	3
Mar	1
Sep	1
Dec	1
2021	15
Mar	2
Jun	2
Jul	1
Aug	2
Sep	4
Oct	3
Dec	1
2022	12
Feb	1
Apr	1
May	3
Jul	2
Aug	1
Sep	1
Oct	1
Nov	1
Dec	1
2023	15
Jan	1
Mar	1
Apr	3
Jun	2
Jul	4
Aug	2
Sep	1
Oct	1
Grand Total	51

4. Furthermore, I am interested in knowing the number of dogs that were destroyed as a result of an attack. If possible, could you differentiate between those destroyed at the scene and those destroyed in kennels?

Month / Year	Outcome			Grand Total
	Destruction Order by Court	Died/PTS in whilst in kennels	Disclaimed by Owner PTS	
2020		1	3	4
Jan		1	1	2
Feb			1	1
Sep			1	1
2021			5	5
Mar			2	2

Aug			1	1
Sep			1	1
Oct			1	1
2022		2	4	6
Feb		1		1
Apr			1	1
May			1	1
Jul		1	1	2
Oct			1	1
2023	1		3	4
Jan	1			1
Apr			1	1
Jul			1	1
Oct			1	1
Grand Total	1	3	15	19

5. Could you confirm how many of the dogs that were destroyed were done so at the discretion of their owners?

Please see above table provided for Q4.

6. I would also like to inquire whether your force records the breed, sex, and age of the dogs reported or seized. If so, could you please provide this information?

No information held (age) - Wiltshire Police do not record this information.

Male - 39

Female - 12

Seized Breed	Year				Grand Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
American Bulldog			1	1	2
American Pitbull Terrier	4		1	1	6
Border Collie			1		1
Crossbreed	2	3		3	8
German Shepherd Dog				2	2
Other Breed	2	11	5	4	22
Other Mastiff			1	1	2
Rottweiler			1		1
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1	1	2		4
XL BULLY / AM BULLY				3	3
Grand Total	9	15	12	15	51

7. Lastly, does your force record whether the dog was an intact male or a spayed female? If this information is available, I would be grateful if you could share it.

No information held - Wiltshire Police do not record this information.

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,

Abigail Standidge

Phone: 01722 547081

Email: abigail.standidge@wiltshire.police.uk

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



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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 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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Keeping Wiltshire Safe