

**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: 1st February 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 082

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th January 2024 concerning Dog Fighting Incidents.

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 Business Performance Team & Dogs Section - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

Please provide the following information:

- 1) Please can I have the number of “dog fighting” incidents that have been reported to your force. Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

No information held – see note below

- 2) Please can I have the number of “dog fighting” incidents that have been investigated by your force under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

No information held – see note below

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- 3) Please can I have the number of “dog fighting” incidents that have been successful prosecuted after investigations by your force under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

Wiltshire Police do not hold any information in respect of conviction data. Under our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant we would recommend that you contact CPS directly for this information.

- 4) Please can I have the number of dogs that have been seized by your force under section 8 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 for "dog fighting" or those being suspected of dog fighting. Of these, how many of the dogs were subsequently destroyed? Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

No dogs have been seized under Section 8 of the Animal Welfare Act for Dog Fighting for the time period you have requested.

Please Note

There is no obligation on an Authority to provide any rationale or explanation when providing a No Information Held response under the FOIA.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant – in this instance – I am happy to provide you with some context as below :-

- a) There is not a specific offence (under current Home Office crime classifications) for Dog Fighting.
- b) Any calls received or reports made are generally assigned an opening and closing reference code, however we do not have either opening or closing codes specifically dedicated to Dog Fighting upon which we can undertake searches.
- c) For the time periods you require, I can confirm that there have been a total of 6 dogs seized under the Animal Welfare Act, but none of these have been for Dog Fighting.

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