

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: July 3, 2024

Our ref: FOI 2024/564

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 7th June 2024 concerning kennels.

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 Dog Unit at Wiltshire Police.

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

You Wrote:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding the use of private contracted kennels by your Police Force for seized dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Specifically, I am interested in understanding how contracted kennels are selected, how dog welfare is monitored, the frequency of visits by Dog Legislation Officers as well as the provisions for dogs who may be unable to be exercised outside of their kennel on a daily basis.

1. Do you follow the RSPCA's Welfare of Seized Dogs in Kennels Guide?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what guidelines do you use when selecting contracted kennels and monitoring the welfare of dogs within contracted kennels?

2. Where do you house seized dogs? (Please add the capacity of dogs that can be housed in the kennels in the relevant column)

Police Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Private Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity

3. What provisions do you have in place for seized dogs if/when capacity is full?

4. How often are visits made to seized dogs in police/private kennels? (please check)

Frequency of Visits

Seizing Authority Visits

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Bi-Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Less than Monthly ☐

Other (please state) ☐

Vet Visits

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Bi-Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Less than Monthly ☐

Other (please state) ☐

Comments

5. Is your private kennel in your police force area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what is the distance to the kennel from seizing area?

6. Do you provide individual plans for seized dogs that the private kennels can follow i.e. environmental, dietary, veterinary support and exercise plans?

If yes, please can you provide an example of this?

7. What provisions are in place for dogs whose behaviour restricts them from being taken out of their kennel for daily exercise or contact with people?

8. What provisions are in place to provide opportunities for dogs to perform natural behaviours such as exercise, chewing/digging, socialising and to meet the medical needs of dogs who are considered unsafe for staff to enter the kennels of?

9. Are there processes in place to request support from a Clinical Animal Behaviourist to meet the welfare needs of individual dogs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Do you provide the following for seized dogs in both police kennels and contracted kennels?

- Individual dietary requirements i.e. allergies Yes ☐ No ☐
- Medicines provided by the owner's vet for ongoing medical conditions Yes ☐ No ☐
- Preventative Medicines i.e. flea, tick, worm, and vaccinations Yes ☐ No ☐
- Medicines provided by kennels vet for conditions developed whilst kennelled? Yes ☐ No ☐

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- Enrichment toys/food puzzles, sniffing/chewing Yes ☐ No ☐
- Bedding of Suitable Material Yes ☐ No ☐

Response:

Question One

All our kennels are subject to Government Dog Kennel Boarding Legislation

Question Two

Private Kennels – The entire capacity of kennels unknown by police

Question Three

No Provisions

Question Four

At least bi-weekly by a Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)

The dogs are checked on admission and as and when needed during the stay in kennels. Kennel staff and DLO's will task a vet if required.

Question Five

No – This varies depending where the county dog is seized from.

Question Six

All information passed by owners is passed to kennel staff on first admission and during the dogs stay if further requests are made. There is a handover form (please see attached).

Question Seven

The kennels have provisions to allow dogs who can't be handled into secure safe exercise areas.

Question Eight

The dogs have exercise areas. If safe and suitable they are given toys for enrichment. If a vet needs to treat a dog that is unsafe they may seek assistance from a Dog Legislation Officer (DLO). At times it may be necessary for a dog to be sedated for treatment to be carried out.

Question Nine

No

Question Ten

Yes to all

Enrichment toys / food puzzles, sniffing / chewing and bedding of suitable material if appropriate and safe

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,

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

Keeping Wiltshire Safe



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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
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/>