



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

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/647

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 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.

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

**You wrote:**

Under the FOI Act 2000, please provide the following:

The number of reported dog attacks (Home Office code 008/21 – owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales injuring any person or assistance dog) for the following dates:

Feb 1 2020 – July 1 2020  
Feb 1 2021 – July 1 2021  
Feb 1 2022 – July 1 2022  
Feb 1 2023 – July 1 2023  
Feb 1 2024 – July 1 2024

Out of the total incidents for each year, please also provide the number that involved a suspected American Bully XL (otherwise known as 'XL Bully') and, separately again, the number that involved a confirmed American Bully XL.

**Our response:**

The information that you are requesting in part 2 is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our Crime Recording system(s) are sophisticated and we have a number of fields in which information pertaining to a crime or incident is recorded (and can be searched), we do not have a specific field for the breed of dogs involved in these incidents.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reviewing and/or reading the Occurrence / Crime Record on our Niche database for the time period you require.

Under the circumstances 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.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

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 –

| <b>Reported Month Year / Offence Description</b> | <b>In charge of dog out of control in ANY place injuring any person or assistance dog</b> | <b>Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in E&amp;W (whether or not in public place) injuring any person or assistance dog</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb-2020                                         | 20                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mar-2020                                         | 24                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Apr-2020                                         | 21                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| May-2020                                         | 28                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Jun-2020                                         | 28                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Feb-2021                                         | 15                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mar-2021                                         | 28                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Apr-2021                                         | 26                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| May-2021                                         | 32                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Jun-2021                                         | 35                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Feb-2022                                         | 31                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mar-2022                                         | 25                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Apr-2022                                         | 44                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| May-2022                                         | 15                                                                                        | 22                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jun-2022                                         |                                                                                           | 49                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Feb-2023                                         |                                                                                           | 25                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Mar-2023                                         |                                                                                           | 35                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Apr-2023                                         |                                                                                           | 34                                                                                                                                                                            |
| May-2023                                         |                                                                                           | 46                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jun-2023                                         |                                                                                           | 46                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Feb-2024                                         |                                                                                           | 26                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Mar-2024                                         |                                                                                           | 43                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Apr-2024                                         |                                                                                           | 41                                                                                                                                                                            |
| May-2024                                         |                                                                                           | 35                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jun-2024                                         |                                                                                           | 54                                                                                                                                                                            |

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,  
Force 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

### 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](mailto: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.

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#### **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](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)