

**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: 22nd August 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 764

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19th August 2024 concerning Police 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.

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Dogs Section - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

1. How many police dogs are currently operational 2024

22

2. How many police dogs are currently not operational due to injury, ailment, sickness 2024

0

3. How many police dogs in training 2024

25

4. How many police dogs procured from 2010 to 2020.

No Information Held – see note below

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

5. How many police dogs were purchased from breeders in the uk. How many from the EU

No Information Held – see note below

6. How many police dogs were bred from Police breeding project

Nil bred, however at least 4 have been run on as Pups in that period.

7. How many police dogs were gifted or purchased from uk dog rescues and which rescues

No Information Held – see note below

8. How many police dogs failed to meet standards. Did they get returned to vendor, breeder or rescue

No Information Held – see note below

9. How many police dogs have been successfully rehomed 2010 – 2024

No Information Held – see note below

10. How many police dogs failed rehome and were they returned to unit or euthanised

Dogs generally are re-homed to the original supplier, or a suitable new home is found. We have not had any euthanised.

11. How many police dogs have been euthanised due to 1. Sickness, injury, ailment.
2.Behaviour, safety, treachery

Due to sickness or ailment – 2

Due to behaviour - 1

12. What is the current budget for rehoming 2024

There is no formal budget.

13. How many registered clinical behaviourists work with rehoming police dogs 2024

None.

14. How many police dog have been euthanised due to accident, injury or ailment on duty
2010-2024

None on duty (3 in service as per Q11)

15. How many police dogs died in kennels, vehicles, in enclosures 2010-2014

None

16. How many police dogs died on duty 2010-2024

None

17. How many police dogs were rehomed to their handlers or families 2010-2024

Approximately 80% of our dogs are retired to their handlers.

18. How many police dogs were rehomed to the general public 2010-2024

The remaining 20% or thereabouts are re-homed to the general public.

Please Note

There is no obligation on an authority to provide any reason or rationale when providing a No Information Held response, however – under our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant – in this instance I am happy to provide some additional context here.

The records we keep around our Dog Unit are limited and in many cases manual. Only certain information is recorded and that is generally when we have a formal obligation or particular reason to do so.

Historically, Wiltshire Police used to operate within a Tri-Force collaboration along with Avon & Somerset and Gloucestershire Police – each of whom hold records relevant to their own area and their partner's areas.

There is no obligation on an authority to create information where it does not currently exist today simply to answer an FOI request. A lot of the information requested for Questions 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 is simply not recorded anywhere as formal records and to provide that information would not only necessitate the creation of new records, but it would not be possible without spending some considerable time researching historic records across those 3 Forces (due to the historic collaboration mentioned). Were we to undertake this task (even though there is no obligation to do so), this would inevitably invoke a Section 12 exemption as the cost of doing so would be well in excess of our obligation to do so under the FOIA.

Whilst, we cannot provide definitive answers to these questions, our Head of Dog Section has provided some anecdotal information for these questions which may help – these are provided below :-

Q4 Approx 30 dogs procured by Wiltshire Police

- Q5 Only 2-3 animals were purchased from outside the UK**
- Q7 Around 6 animals were sourced from UK rescue centres in this time**
- Q8 Dogs are generally returned to the supplier when not successful**
- Q9 Unable to estimate a figure**

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