



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

Date: 28th August 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/774

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd August 2024 concerning The Animal Welfare Act.

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 after having consulted our Business Intelligence team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

For the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 (up to the present day), I request data on arrests made under or in relation to The Animal Welfare Act. Specifically, I am seeking the following details:

Total Number of Arrests: The total number of arrests made under or related to The Animal Welfare Act for each of the specified years.

Animal Involved: Please specify the type of animal(s) involved in each incident (e.g., dog, cat, horse, farm animals, etc.).

Type of Crime Committed: A detailed description of the crime committed in each case (e.g., neglect, mutilation, poisoning, illegal sale, theft, etc.).

Geographical Location: If possible, please provide the geographical location (e.g., city, county, or police jurisdiction) where the arrest was made.

Outcome of the Arrest: Please specify the outcome of the arrest, if available (e.g., charges filed, conviction, acquittal, ongoing investigation, etc.).

Additional Notes: Any other relevant information or context regarding the arrests, such as notable cases, if available.

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Please provide the information in an Excel spreadsheet, with each year represented as a separate sheet, and clearly labeled columns for each data category.

Our response:

Please see the tables below for more information.

Reported Month & Year	No. of people arrested under offence description - Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal
Jul-23	1
Jul-24	1
Grand Total	2

Reported Month & Year	Crime Sub-Group	Offence Description	Animal Involved	Town	Detection Status
Jul-2023	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal	Dog	SWINDON	1: Summoned/postal requisition
Jul-2024	Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal	Dog	SWINDON	New

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

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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

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.

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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