

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Via Email



Police Headquarters

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 12/09/2024

Our ref: FOI 2024/776

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/08/2024 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 I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote with **Response**

How many serving police dogs do you currently have?

22

How many police dog handlers do you currently have?

13

How many police dog trainers do you currently have?

4

Please confirm the gender split of female and male police dog handlers?

50/50

Please confirm number of police dogs in your force which have died or been euthanised while still enrolled as a police dog (please include cause of death for each dog) from January 2020 until present.

1. **Cancer**

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How many police dogs have retired from the force since January 2020 until present day?
Please include reason for retirement.

19 Total.
12 Retired due to age.
4 retired to handler on retirement
2 retired, not suitable.
1 Retired (euthanized as below)

How many police dogs have been euthanised as they're deemed unsuitable for retirement since January 2020 until present day?

1. (aggression issues on Vets recommendation).

How many police dogs have failed their initial training course, and subsequently been rehomed or euthanised since January 2020 until present day?

6 failed initial course and rehomed.

What is the yearly expenditure for all police dogs?

Please note that this is expenditure for the last full financial year (23/24)

Purchase of New Dogs = £12,433

Feeding/Vets/Kenneling = £54,776

Do your police dog handlers undertake canine first aid training? If so, how often are they provided a refresher course?

Yes. Refreshed every 3 years.

Are your police dogs supplied with personal protective equipment? If so, please state the equipment provided, brand of the equipment and confirm if it's personal issue to each serving police dog?

All dogs issued with Ballistic vests.
Other equipment currently under review.

Are your police dogs provided with a direct financial assistance in their retirement from your police force or police crime commissioner?

No

How many suspects have been arrested by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day?

One

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How many suspects have been charged by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day?

One

How many suspects have been convicted by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day?

One

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



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 Fol 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

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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/>