



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 28th February 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 240

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25th February 2025 concerning Dog Seizures and Costs.

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 and Finance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response)

1. Please provide the number of suspected S1 dogs you seized between February and September 2024.

February	4
March	4
April	8
May	0
June	5
July	3
August	4
September	7
Total	35

2. Please provide the number of dogs you kennelled in each month between February 2024 to September 2024.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

February	6
March	4
April	8
May	2
June	7
July	3
August	4
September	8

The NPCC has also revealed that it can cost up to £1,000 per month to kennel a dog.

- Please provide the total amount you spent kennelling dogs in each month between February 2024 and September 2024.

February	£17,365
March	£14,166
April	£ 7,200
May	£17,260
June	£21,956
July	£18,426
August	£28,102
September	£24,269

- Please provide the total amounts you spent on (i) food and (ii) care in respect of kennelled dogs in each month between February 2024 and September 2024.

	<u>Vet Costs</u>	<u>Other Costs</u>
February	£1,002	£ 64
March	£ 539	£ 0
April	£ 0	£ 0
May	£ 0	£ 55
June	£2,901	£ 306
July	£4,146	£ 575
August	£ 712	£2,175
September	£1,587	£1,150

Please Note

- In respect of Q4, we do not break our "Other Costs" down into food, care and such like – we only split the associated costs down into Kenneling Costs, Vet Costs and Other in our Finance systems.
- Over the course of the period you have requested we were initially booking/reserving 10 kennels per month – this doubled to 20 kennels per month and is now standing at 25 kennels per month.
- Any more detailed break-down of kenneling costs would likely to be exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the FOIA covering Commercial Interests.

5. Please provide the names of all businesses/organisations you used to kennel dogs between February 2024 and September 2024.

Information in respect of this question is exempt by virtue of Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement.

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice-based exemption and therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure, along with the public interest favouring and against disclosure.

Harm test

Disclosing information into the public domain - specifically details of the businesses and/or locations used to kennel seized dogs - would undermine the core principles of policing; namely to prevent and detect crime. Disclosure of this information could cause substantial harm not only to those businesses and locations, the people that are employed at those establishments, our own operations in this field and also potentially to members of the public. If Wiltshire Police were to place this information into the public domain, this could prejudice our ability to prevent and detect crime, and provide potential offenders with the information they would need to conduct targeted activity – this could in turn affect the Force's ability to protect the community.

Factors favouring disclosure

Placing this information into the public domain would lead to an increased public awareness on these matters. Disclosure would also ensure that Wiltshire Police can be held accountable for our actions, and show the Force is being as open and transparent with the public as possible.

Factors against disclosure

Providing details of the businesses and/or locations where Wiltshire Police currently house seized dogs would hinder the prevention and detection of crime. Disclosure of this information would provide either the owners of dogs that have been seized (or indeed the victims of dog attacks for instance) with the requisite knowledge to undertake reprisal activity should they wish to – such as targeting these locations for criminal damage, attempting to seize-back the animal in question and would endanger those businesses and the staff employed by them. Not only would this pose a risk with regards to a potential increase in crime, it would also indicate our current Force capabilities in this area and should the disclosure of this information result in anything negative, then it would undoubtedly cause either reputational harm to those businesses concerned or would be to the detriment of current commercial arrangements.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in transparency and openness between the Force and the public, in addition to the public seeing how the Force deal with seized dogs, there is a stronger interest in ensuring that both these businesses and the public in general are protected from the threat of criminal activity, and that the enforcement of the law and the prevention and detection of crime is upheld. To disclose information which is likely to assist potential offenders or endanger individuals involved (or possibly members of the public) would seriously undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement and is therefore exempt from disclosure.

Please Note

Despite exempting a detailed response to this question – and in accordance with our Section 16 duty to be as helpful as possible to an applicant – I am happy to confirm that for the time period

you have requested, Wiltshire Police have used a number of different businesses / locations to kennel these dogs.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabulary, when refusing to provide 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.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

Section 31(1) - Law Enforcement

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