

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 15th January 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-045

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11th January 2026, concerning offence codes & recording classifications for Dangerous Dogs Act matters.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Crime Standards & Justice department at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote and our response:

This request relates only to administrative offence codes, crime-recording classifications, and recording guidance.

No case-specific information, personal data, or investigative material is requested.

1. Offence codes – Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Section 1

Please provide the offence code(s), classification(s), or recording categories used by your force to record the following:

- a) Possession or custody of a prohibited type dog (Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, s1(3))
- b) Suspected prohibited type dog (prior to any confirmation)
- c) Confirmed prohibited type dog, if recorded separately
- d) Seizure of a dog believed to be a prohibited type (including seizures under s5 or PACE powers)
- e) Breeding, selling, exchanging, advertising, or gifting a prohibited type (s1(7)) If Section 1 matters are not recorded as notifiable crimes or are not recorded on your crime system, please state this clearly.

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These offences are not notifiable crimes and therefore are not subject to Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) for classified crimes. These offences would normally be recorded under the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR) under the 'Public Safety Welfare – Animals/Wildlife' category as defined by the National Incident Category List (NICL) however, in Wiltshire, a local recording category has been created for these offences (PSW – Dog Banned Breed (S1 Dangerous Dogs Act)).

2. Offence codes – Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Section 3

Please provide the offence code(s) or classifications used to record:

- a) Dog dangerously out of control causing injury
- b) Dog dangerously out of control causing death

The offence of an owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog is recorded under HOCR classification 008/21.

- c) Dog dangerously out of control with no injury

Where a dog is reported to be dangerously out of control and no injury is caused to any person or assistance dog, there is no requirement under HOCR for this to be recorded as a classified crime. The NSIR provision to record this under the NICL category of 'Public Safety Welfare – Animals/Wildlife' would normally apply however, in Wiltshire, a local recording category has been created for these offences (PSW - Dog Dangerously Out of Control (No Injury/Fear only, Sec 3 Dangerous Dogs Act)).

3. Destruction and exemption outcomes

Please provide any offence codes or outcome codes used to record:

- a) Destruction orders (s4)
- b) Destruction without owner present (s4B)
- c) Exemption orders (s4A)
- d) Voluntary surrender or disclaimer, if recorded separately

There are no specific offence or outcome codes that are used to record these outcomes.

4. Internal or local codes

If your force uses internal or local offence codes that differ from Home Office classifications, please provide:

- the internal code
- its description
- and, where applicable, the Home Office offence category it maps to

There are no internal or local offence codes that differ from Home Office crime classifications. Details regarding the local incident categories are outlined in Q1 and Q2.

5. "Suspected" vs "confirmed" classification

Please confirm whether your recording system distinguishes between:

- suspected prohibited type,
- and confirmed prohibited type,
- or whether a single code is used for all Section 1 matters regardless of status.

Recording categories do not distinguish between reports of suspected or confirmed prohibited types for Section 1 offence reports. They are recorded against the single incident category as outlined in Q1.

6. Recording guidance

Please provide, or identify by title/reference, any written guidance or definitions used by crime-recording staff that specify:

- when Section 1 matters should be recorded
- which offence code should be applied
- how suspected versus confirmed prohibited type is recorded (if applicable)

Crime Recording Staff have access to the National Crime Recording Standard and Home Office Counting Rules. Local procedures regarding the recording of S1 and S3 (no injury caused) offences using the local category have been briefed to staff.

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,

FDU 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



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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

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 to contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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