

**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: 6th February 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 142

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd February 2026 concerning Illegal Docking of 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 Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am writing to request information regarding the enforcement of legislation relating to illegal tail docking in England and Wales of those specific working breeds (Spaniels, Terriers, hunt-point-retrieve breeds) that can have an exemption under certain circumstances.

Please provide, for each of the most recent five calendar 12-month periods:

1. The number of investigations opened by the Wiltshire police concerning suspected illegal tail docking of all dogs
2. How many of those investigations were for suspected illegal docking of a dog in the working dog breeds classification eg Spaniels, Terriers, HPR (Hunt, Point, Retrieve)?
3. How many of these investigations involved a rescue organisation?
4. How many of those involving a rescue organisation was importing dogs from outside of the UK?
5. The number of cases of illegal docking of a dog in the working breed classification were referred for prosecution?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

6. The number of prosecutions brought and their outcomes (e.g. cautions, convictions, no further action).

7. Any guidance issued internally to officers on identifying and enforcing offences relating to illegal tail docking.

If the information is held by a central body rather than force level, I would be grateful if you could advise where this request should be directed.

Our response:

Wiltshire Police record crime in accordance with the Home Office Crime Recording Classifications.

Any offences of this nature would have been recorded under the following classification :-

- 97/3 Removing or causing or permitting or failing to prevent removal of dog's tail other than for medical treatment

I can confirm that for the time period you require, Wiltshire Police have not recorded any crimes under this Crime Code.

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