

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

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

Date 20th April 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-345

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 2nd April 2026, concerning dangerous 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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Dog Unit at Wiltshire Police.

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

You wrote and our response:

I am seeking recorded information relating to dogs seized and/or involved in attack incidents within your force area.

Scope of request

Please provide the following information for the latest 12-month period for which data is available.

Where exact classifications are not held, please provide the closest available recorded categories. I am requesting aggregated data only and do not require case-level information.

Please note, the period this data relates to is 15.04.2025 to 15.04.2026.

1. Total numbers

The total number of dogs that were:

- (a) Seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (including on suspicion of being a prohibited type), and/or

95 - 39 for section 1 (prohibited breed) only

- (b) Recorded as involved in a dog attack incident

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2. Outcomes

Of the dogs identified above, please provide the number that were:

(a) Returned to their owner

25

(b) Rehomed

3

(c) Euthanised/destroyed

36

(d) Still in police or contracted kennels at the time of the most recent available data

31

3. Legal or investigative outcome (returned dogs)

For dogs that were **returned to their owner**, please provide a breakdown, where recorded, by the outcome of the associated case:

(a) Cases resulting in a charge and conviction

1

(b) Cases resulting in a charge but no conviction (including acquittals or discontinued cases)

0

(c) Cases resulting in no charges being brought

18

(d) Cases under investigation or subject to ongoing proceedings at the time the dog was returned

6

If this exact breakdown is not held, please provide any recorded outcome categories used.

4. Prohibited breeds

Of the dogs seized as suspected prohibited types, please provide:

(a) The number confirmed as a prohibited type

38

(b) The number subsequently returned to their owner

6

Please note: Many dogs are awaiting Court for a 4B Process (defined in the Dangerous Dogs Act). This process refers to when an individual can be taken to Court for possessing a Section 1 (Banned Breed) dog, but where they will not get a conviction in Court. This is a way of dealing with the matter civilly, as opposed to the criminal conviction under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act. The aim of this process is to either apply for the destruction of the dog or, more commonly, to apply for the dog to be exempt.

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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