

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: July 31, 2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/670

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18th July 2026 concerning 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:

regarding your force's current arrangements for dealing with incidents and investigations involving dangerous dogs and offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Please provide the following information:

1. Dedicated dangerous dog function

Does your force currently operate a dedicated dangerous dog team, unit, or specialist function?

Please confirm which of the following applies:

Yes – dedicated standalone team/unit

Yes – specialist function within another department

No – dangerous dog investigations are managed through general policing teams

Other – please provide details

2. Structure and location within the organisation

If a dedicated team or specialist function exists:

- a) What is the name of the team/function?

b) Which department does it sit within? (e.g. Local Policing, CID, Public Protection, Specialist Operations, Operational Support, or other)

c) Is the function:

Force-wide;

Locally managed by individual commands/divisions;

Provided through collaboration with another force or organisation?

3. Staffing levels

Please provide the current staffing establishment for this function, expressed as full-time equivalent (FTE) where possible.

Please provide a breakdown of:

Police officers (including rank breakdown)

Police staff

PCSOs

Other personnel (please specify)

4. Dedicated or wider duties

Are personnel allocated solely to dangerous dog work, or do they undertake other duties?

If they undertake other duties, please provide a brief description of those additional responsibilities.

5. Specialist roles

Does your force have any of the following roles:

Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)

Dangerous dog coordinator/lead

Police staff member(s) dedicated to dangerous dog administration or case management

Other personnel whose sole role, or additional role, involves dangerous dog investigation, tactical advice, or specialist support

If yes, please provide the number of posts and whether they are full-time or part-time.

6. Training and accreditation

Does your force provide any dedicated training or accreditation for officers/staff undertaking dangerous dog investigations?

If yes, please provide details of the training provided.

7. Operational model

Please provide a brief description of how dangerous dog incidents are managed within your force, including whether:

Initial response is provided by general policing teams;

Investigations are subsequently transferred to specialist staff;

Specialist staff provide advice/support only.

8. Policies and documents

Please provide copies of any publicly releasable documents that describe the role, remit, or operating model of your dangerous dog function (for example role profiles, terms of reference, guidance documents, or similar).

For clarity, this request relates to dangerous dog investigation/enforcement functions and not police dog units or operational police dogs.

Response:

Question One

Yes – Dedicated standalone team / unit

No – Dangerous dog investigations are managed through general policing teams

Other – Dog Legislation Officers (DLO) offer support to investigations throughout, attend court as expert witnesses and seize dangerous or banned breeds

Question Two

Dog Legislation Officers are imbedded within the dog section

Dog Section and Specialist Operations

Force-wide

Question Three

Police Officers – 4 Dog Legislation Officers, 2 full time and both Police Constables – 1 is the training manager who is a Police Sergeant and another PC who is on a team.

10 dog handlers and 2 Sergeants

Question Four

The 2 full time Dog Legislation Officers specifically deal with dangerous dogs. The other 2 are answered in the previous Question.

Question Five

Dog Legislation Officer = Yes

Dangerous dog coordinator / lead = Yes

Police staff member(s) = No

Other personnel = No

Question Six

The Dog Legislation Officers attend and are accredited out of force and at specific DLO training venues. Once they are accredited and can undertake the role of DLO, they are constantly refreshing by doing and attending court as expert witnesses.

Question Seven

Initial response – The dog section will oversee and guide any investigation it is made aware of, but response officers tend to be called first then Dog Legislation Officers or dog handlers will assist.

Investigations – Most Section 1 offences will now come to the dog section. Section 3s will stay with response teams but Dog Legislation Officers and handlers will guide and advise.

Question Eight

Please note that our internal policies are currently going through a transition of being resigned. However, these can be found on the College of Policing website and are publicly available.

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,

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

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:

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

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/>