



14 August 2024

FOI Ref 16934

Request - You asked us the following:

1. Do you follow the RSPCA's Welfare of Seized Dogs in Kennels Guide?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what guidelines do you use when selecting contracted kennels and monitoring the welfare of dogs within contracted kennels?

2. Where do you house seized dogs? (Please add the capacity of dogs that can be housed in the kennels in the relevant column)
Police Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity:
Private Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity

3. What provisions do you have in place for seized dogs if/when capacity is full?

4. How often are visits made to seized dogs in police/private kennels? (please check)

Frequency of Visits

Seizing Authority Visits

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Bi-Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Less than Monthly ☐

Other (please state) ☐

Vet Visits

Daily ☐

Weekly ☐

Bi-Weekly ☐

Monthly ☐

Less than Monthly ☐

Other (please state) ☐

Comments

5. Is your private kennel in your police force area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what is the distance to the kennel from seizing area?

6. Do you provide individual plans for seized dogs that the private kennels can follow i.e. environmental, dietary, veterinary support and exercise plans?

If yes, please can you provide an example of this?



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7. What provisions are in place for dogs whose behaviour restricts them from being taken out of their kennel for daily exercise or contact with people?
8. What provisions are in place to provide opportunities for dogs to perform natural behaviours such as exercise, chewing/digging, socialising and to meet the medical needs of dogs who are considered unsafe for staff to enter the kennels of?
9. Are there processes in place to request support from a Clinical Animal Behaviourist to meet the welfare needs of individual dogs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Do you provide the following for seized dogs in both police kennels and contracted kennels?
 - Individual dietary requirements i.e. allergies Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Medicines provided by the owner's vet for ongoing medical conditions Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Preventative Medicines i.e. flea, tick, worm, and vaccinations Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Medicines provided by kennels vet for conditions developed whilst kennelled? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Enrichment toys/food puzzles, sniffing/chewing Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Bedding of Suitable Material Yes ☐ No ☐

We received your request on 07/06/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1. Do you follow the RSPCA's Welfare of Seized Dogs in Kennels Guide?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If no, what guidelines do you use when selecting contracted kennels and monitoring the welfare of dogs within contracted kennels? – **Information held.**
2. Where do you house seized dogs? (Please add the capacity of dogs that can be housed in the kennels in the relevant column)
Police Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity:
Private Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity – **Information held.**
3. What provisions do you have in place for seized dogs if/when capacity is full? – **Information held.**
4. How often are visits made to seized dogs in police/private kennels? (please check)
Frequency of Visits
Seizing Authority Visits



Daily ☐
Weekly ☐
Bi-Weekly ☐
Monthly ☐
Less than Monthly ☐
Other (please state) ☐

Vet Visits

Daily ☐
Weekly ☐
Bi-Weekly ☐
Monthly ☐
Less than Monthly ☐
Other (please state) ☐

Comments – **Information held.**

5. Is your private kennel in your police force area?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If no, what is the distance to the kennel from seizing area? – **Information held.**
6. Do you provide individual plans for seized dogs that the private kennels can follow i.e. environmental, dietary, veterinary support and exercise plans?
If yes, please can you provide an example of this? – **Information held.**
7. What provisions are in place for dogs whose behaviour restricts them from being taken out of their kennel for daily exercise or contact with people? – **Information held.**
8. What provisions are in place to provide opportunities for dogs to perform natural behaviours such as exercise, chewing/digging, socialising and to meet the medical needs of dogs who are considered unsafe for staff to enter the kennels of? – **Information held.**
9. Are there processes in place to request support from a Clinical Animal Behaviourist to meet the welfare needs of individual dogs?
Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Information held.**
1. Do you provide the following for seized dogs in both police kennels and contracted kennels?
- Individual dietary requirements i.e. allergies Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Medicines provided by the owner's vet for ongoing medical conditions Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Preventative Medicines i.e. flea, tick, worm, and vaccinations Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Medicines provided by kennels vet for conditions developed whilst kennelled? Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Enrichment toys/food puzzles, sniffing/chewing Yes ☐ No ☐
 - Bedding of Suitable Material Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Information held.**



Staffordshire Police discloses the following information.

1. Do you follow the RSPCA's Welfare of Seized Dogs in Kennels Guide?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If no, what guidelines do you use when selecting contracted kennels and monitoring the welfare of dogs within contracted kennels? – **Disclosed, yes.**
2. Where do you house seized dogs? (Please add the capacity of dogs that can be housed in the kennels in the relevant column)
Police Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity:
Private Kennels Yes ☐ No ☐ Capacity – **Partially disclosed, seized dogs are housed in private kennels.**
3. What provisions do you have in place for seized dogs if/when capacity is full? – **Disclosed, other secure kennels.**
4. How often are visits made to seized dogs in police/private kennels? (please check)
Frequency of Visits
Seizing Authority Visits
Daily ☐
Weekly ☐
Bi-Weekly ☐
Monthly ☐
Less than Monthly ☐
Other (please state) ☐

Vet Visits
Daily ☐
Weekly ☐
Bi-Weekly ☐
Monthly ☐
Less than Monthly ☐
Other (please state) ☐

Comments – **Disclosed, seizing authority visits are either weekly or bi-weekly, depending on circumstances. Vet visits are weekly or whenever required.**
5. Is your private kennel in your police force area?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If no, what is the distance to the kennel from seizing area? – **Partially disclosed, the distance to the kennel from seizing area depends on the location of the incident.**
6. Do you provide individual plans for seized dogs that the private kennels can follow i.e. environmental, dietary, veterinary support and exercise plans?

If yes, please can you provide an example of this? – **Disclosed, yes. These are recorded in note form and passed from the owners to the kennels to follow.**

7. What provisions are in place for dogs whose behaviour restricts them from being taken out of their kennel for daily exercise or contact with people? – **Disclosed, each dog is individually assessed by kennel staff and therefore provisions are based on an individual basis for each dog.**
8. What provisions are in place to provide opportunities for dogs to perform natural behaviours such as exercise, chewing/digging, socialising and to meet the medical needs of dogs who are considered unsafe for staff to enter the kennels of? – **Disclosed, dogs that are unsafe are a danger to anyone and cannot be handled safely even with safety precautions so unfortunately, they do not leave their kennel area as the only way would be on a pole which would cause the animal undue stress and be counterproductive.**
9. Are there processes in place to request support from a Clinical Animal Behaviourist to meet the welfare needs of individual dogs?
Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes if required.**
10. Do you provide the following for seized dogs in both police kennels and contracted kennels?
- Individual dietary requirements i.e. allergies Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes.**
 - Medicines provided by the owner's vet for ongoing medical conditions Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes.**
 - Preventative Medicines i.e. flea, tick, worm, and vaccinations Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes.**
 - Medicines provided by kennels vet for conditions developed whilst kennelled? Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes.**
 - Enrichment toys/food puzzles, sniffing/chewing Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes.**
 - Bedding of Suitable Material Yes ☐ No ☐ – **Disclosed, yes.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

To provide the capacity with regard to the number of dogs that can be housed in the kennels could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. Disclosure of the specific capacity of each facility would enable individuals intent on disrupting police activity to

conduct detailed research on the available facilities and therefore identify the locations of such kennels.

Members of the criminal fraternity, armed with such information could then take steps to disrupt operational policing; therefore, prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime, the administration of justice and placing both members of the public and police staff at a significantly increased risk of harm.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 31 (1) (a)(b) - Law Enforcement.
- Section 38 (1) (a)(b) – Health & Safety

Information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31 and Section 38 where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure - Section 31

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force how public funds are utilised.

Factors favouring non-disclosure - Section 31

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity of Staffordshire Police Kennels. If a location was made public, or by dint of disclosure such locations could be identified, these locations could then be targeted by members of the criminal fraternity or other adversaries; seized dogs could be released into the public before any court procedures, jeopardising our capacity to protect the public and bring offenders to justice. This would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and unnecessarily endanger members of police staff and the public in general. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful.

Factors favouring disclosure - Section 38

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of the location of kennelling provision would allow for greater public awareness around the kennelling facilities employed by Staffordshire Police and inform public debate upon how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure - Section 38

Our kennelling provision for seized dogs is kept confidential for security reasons; this is to ensure the safety and security of the staff and kennels, but also to ensure that seized dogs are



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cared for in a secure and safe environment. Disclosure of detailed information from which these locations could be determined would therefore be detrimental to these functions and unnecessarily place the wellbeing of staff, animals and the public at risk.

Balancing Test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit