



# CIVIL NUCLEAR CONSTABULARY

**The Executive Office**  
Civil Nuclear Constabulary  
Building F6 Culham Science Centre  
Abingdon  
Oxon  
OX14 3DB

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Website: <https://www.gov.uk/cnc>

12 August 2025

Dear Requester

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the below. Your request has been handled under Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In accordance with Section 1(1) (a) of the Act I hereby confirm that the CNC/CNPA does hold information of the type specified.

## **Your Request:**

- **any information held by your agency that is concerned with the transportation of Dogs, be this guidance, standards, legislation, or any other relevant documentation.**
- **Any data that is concerned with the transportation of police dogs especially concerned with the welfare of said dogs.**

## **CNC Response**

**The CNC holds the following information regarding transportation of police dogs:**

- 1) **Extracted from CNC's Dog Training Unit SOP v14 2024:-**

### **Transport of Police Dogs**

**The Constabulary has a variety of police vehicles in service which are regularly used for the transportation of Police Dogs.**

**Police Dog(s) should be carried in the appropriate force issued vehicle cages in the rear of vehicles, to prevent the dog being thrown forward during braking or being loose in a collision. Handler's vehicles need to be fitted with these cages as soon as practicable to ensure the handler can safely transport police dogs.**

**As an interim measure, due to the fact these cages can take an amount of time to be ordered / constructed and delivered, a suitable issued dog crate can be used in the rear of a vehicle to kennel a dog, so long as this is secured and is safe for the transportation of the dog(s). Potential interim options can also include use of 'seatbelt attachments / head-rest harnesses, or boot grills. As each handler has different numbers / sizes / types of dogs there is not a 'one-size fits all solution'. In any circumstances, where police dogs are not carried in individual 'kennels' within force issued and approved car cages, guidance and approval should be sought from the Training Sergeant / FDO.**

**The space required will vary depending on the number and size of dogs but should allow the dog(s) to assume a relaxed position and allows them to turn and re-position comfortably, as required to conform to DEFRA guidelines. The temperature and ventilation for the dogs within the vehicle should be the same as that of the passengers. Care must also be taken to ensure that the dog(s) are shielded from, or can avoid, direct sunlight, which may raise their body temperature to an unacceptable level. Dog(s) must not be left in an unattended vehicle unless appropriate measures for their safety and welfare have been made, for example; water, temperature control, ventilation, prevention of escape and injury to other persons have been catered for. This applies equally to Police vehicles and to personal cars being used to transport Police Dogs.**

**To ensure the welfare of Police Dogs being transported within these vehicles and to guard against the risk of dogs suffering from hyperthermia (overheating) it is imperative that full consideration is given to the design of cages and that best use is made of associated equipment e.g. run-lock, vent locks, and air conditioning units.**

**The vehicles will be kept clean and cages disinfected at the end of every use. The responsibility for ensuring the cleanliness and suitability of police dog vehicles rests with the dog handlers. Suitable disinfectant for cleaning Police Dog vans and car cages will be made available to all handlers. Only approved cleaning products can be used to clean police dog vehicles. (CoSHH compliance).**

**Police dog vehicles are primarily for the transportation of CNC police dogs only. The carriage of any other dogs should be avoided wherever possible. Where any non-CNC dog has been within a CNC vehicle, the vehicle is to be taken out of service and subject to a complete clean / disinfect prior to returning to use for CNC dogs.**

**2) Extracted from the NPCC Police Dog Standard (national guidance) which CNC also complies with:-**

#### **4.4 Transporting Police Dogs in Vehicles**

**4.4.1 Police Dog Vehicle Police dog vehicles are specifically adapted for the safety and comfort of the police dog. There is a duty of care to ensure police dogs are transported in suitable containers and to protect them from injury or unnecessary suffering under:**

- Article 4 of Welfare of Animals [Transport] [England] Order 2006**

- **Article 4 of The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) order 2007**
- **The Highway Code (Rule 57) The recommended minimum specification for response police dog vehicles outlines the minimum specification of vehicles used to transport police dogs whilst on duty.**

**All vehicles used for transporting police dogs must have the correct ventilation and temperature control so that the dog remains comfortable inside.**

**Police dog(s) will not be left in an unattended vehicle unless appropriate measures for their welfare and security have been made. These include:**

- **water**
- **temperature control**
- **ventilation**
- **prevention of escape and injury to other persons are catered for.**

**All cages or guards should have securing mechanisms to ensure doors cannot be inadvertently or accidentally opened to prevent injury.**

#### **4.4.2 Handlers' Personal Vehicle**

**All police dogs will be carried in a vehicle that prevents them from being thrown forward during braking or in a collision. This may include a properly installed dog guard capable of withstanding the impact of a dog or by the installation of a cage secured within the vehicles load carrying area. Consideration can be given to suitable alternatives, such as purpose made harnesses, that achieve the same safety requirements. Forces must consider the suitability of the method the dog is being carried in, as well as its welfare and the welfare of the passengers should the dog find the presence of passengers stimulating.**

**The space required depends on the size and number of dog(s) carried.**

**The space must allow the dog(s) to assume a relaxed position and permit them to turn and reposition themselves at will.**

**The vehicle temperature and ventilation experienced by the dog(s) should be the same as that experienced by the passengers.**

**This ensures the conditions the dog(s) are exposed to can be monitored and adapted where necessary.**

**The vehicle must be well ventilated and kept cool during the journey to not cause distress, suffering or heat stroke which could be fatal.**

**Additional care should be taken where possible to ensure that the dog(s) are shielded from, or can avoid direct sunlight, which may raise the body temperature.**

**The provision of ventilation should not endanger persons outside the vehicle.**

**All police dogs should have a comfortable surface to lie on that will ensure they can rest and relax.**

**Any police dogs left unattended in a handler's own vehicle will be subject to the same, welfare, safety and security provisions as outlined in 4.4.1**

#### **Context:**

**The Civil Nuclear Constabulary is a specialist armed police service dedicated to the civil nuclear industry, with Operational Policing Units based at 10 civil nuclear sites in England and Scotland and over 1600 police officers and staff.**

The Constabulary headquarters is at Culham in Oxfordshire. The civil nuclear industry forms part of the UK's critical national infrastructure and the role of the Constabulary contributes to the overall framework of national security.

The purpose of the Constabulary is to protect licensed civil nuclear sites and to safeguard nuclear material in transit. The Constabulary works in partnership with the appropriate Home Office Police Force or Police Scotland at each site. Policing services required at each site are agreed with nuclear operators in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and ratified by the UK regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Armed policing services are required at most civil nuclear sites in the United Kingdom. The majority of officers in the Constabulary are Authorised Firearms Officers.

The Constabulary is recognised by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). Through the National Coordinated Policing Protocol, the Constabulary has established memorandums of understanding with the local police forces at all 10 Operational Policing Units. Mutual support and assistance enable the Constabulary to maintain focus on its core role.

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously. If you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. We will investigate the matter and aim to reply within 3 to 6 weeks. You should write, in the first instance, to:

Jo Sawley  
Disclosures Officer  
CNC  
Culham Science Centre  
Abingdon  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 3DB

E-mail: [FOI@cnc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@cnc.pnn.police.uk)

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by the CNPA.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you require any further assistance in connection with this request, please contact us using the details provided above.

Yours sincerely

Jo Sawley

Disclosures Officer