



# Ministry of Defence Police

Data Protection Officer & Freedom of  
Information Manager

Room 126 Building 1070  
MDP Wethersfield  
Braintree CM7 4AZ  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1371 85[REDACTED]

E-mail: [MDP-FOI-DP@mod.uk](mailto:MDP-FOI-DP@mod.uk)

[REDACTED]

Email:- [REDACTED]

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2018/00774 RFI:013/18

Date: 5 February 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE DOG TRAINING**

I refer to your e-mail of 17 January 2018, which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your e-mail as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your e-mail you requested the following information:

**“1. Please could I find out if your force breeds (or users breeders) to provide police dogs?**

**2. If you do not use either of the above methods, please can you explain where you get your supply of new police dogs from.**

**4. Please can you tell me how many new police dogs have been trained for each year for the past five years, as in the number for 2013 through to 2017?**

**5. What is the average age (or age range) of a new dog undergoing training to become a police dog. i.e is it a puppy?**

**5. Can you please briefly explain what training entails and how long it lasts for?**

**6. Please can you tell me how many of the dogs referenced in question four above failed their training?**

**7. Please can you tell me how many police dogs that start their training fail?**

**8. Please can you tell me what happens to these dogs.**

**9. How many dogs undergoing police training to become new police dogs have been euthanised for each year between 2013 to 2017. What was the reason and how old was each dog?"**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold some information in scope of your request.

**1. Please could I find out if your force breeds (or users breeders) to provide police dogs?**

- The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) do not currently breed dogs for police service.
- The MDP do not currently use breeders to provide dogs for police service.

**2. If you do not use either of the above methods, please can you explain where you get your supply of new police dogs from.**

- The MDP procure all Police Dogs through MoD sources at the Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray.

**3. Please can you tell me how many new police dogs have been trained for each year for the past five years, as in the number for 2013 through to 2017?**

- 240 Police Dogs were accepted into MDP service from 2013 to 2017.

**4. What is the average age (or age range) of a new dog undergoing training to become a police dog i.e. is it a puppy?**

- 12 to 24 months old.

**5. Can you please briefly explain what training entails and how long it lasts for?**

- All Police Dogs are trained to National Police Chief Council (NPCC) Standards.
- MDP Dogs are trained as General Purpose Police Dogs, Explosives Search Detection Dogs, Drugs Detection Dogs and Firearms Detection Search Dogs.
- Initial training will vary according to the specific role; however, all initial dog training courses are six to twelve weeks in duration.

**6. Please can you tell me how many of the dogs referenced in question four above failed their training?**

- Eight (08) MDP Dogs were unsuccessful during initial training from 2013 to 2017.

**7. Please can you tell me how many police dogs that start their training fail?**

- The MDP percentage of unsuccessful police dogs during initial training is very low; 4% of all dogs.

**8. Please can you tell me what happens to these dogs.**

- The unsuccessful MDP Dogs are returned to the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray.

**9. How many dogs undergoing police training to become new police dogs have been euthanized for each year between 2013 to 2017. What was the reason and how old was each dog?**

- The MDP work in close partnership with the Veterinary Services Training Advisory Team (VSTAT) at Defence Animal Centre (DAC) Melton Mowbray.
- VSTAT are the MoD authorising veterinary authority for the euthanasia of all MoD dogs; the MDP do not authorise euthanasia.
- All records of veterinary euthanasia are held by VSTAT at DAC Melton Mowbray; the MDP do not hold euthanasia records.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

**MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office**