



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/04694
RFI:146/19

Date: 15 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE DOG AND HORSE NUMBERS.

We refer to your email dated 12 April 2019 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 15 April 2019.

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

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

Police Dog and Police Horse numbers between 2009-2019

I am requesting the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act, as part of a BBC investigation looking at the number of police dogs and horses used by forces in the UK between 1st Jan 2009 – 31st Dec 2018.

Question 1:

How many police dogs were there in the force's dog unit in the following years, broken down by job type.

Year	General Police Dog	Detection Dogs (including Search & Rescue)	Total Number of dogs
2012	246	37	283
2013	194	28	222
2014	190	35	225
2015	181	29	210
2016	181	38	219
2017	171	42	213

2018	183	42	225
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Please note: No records are held prior to 2012.

Question 2:

Please list the main breeds used in the totals in question 1. Please list the most commonly used breeds first:

German Shepherd Dog
 Belgian Shepherd Dog
 English Springer Spaniel
 Labrador

Question 3:

How many **FULL TIME** members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the force's dog unit in the following years:

The following figures are available which includes all dog handlers across the force:

Year	Number of Full time members of staff
2012	293
2013	227
2014	230
2015	216
2016	224
2017	219
2018	230

Question 4:

How many police horses were there in the force's mounted unit in the following years.

No Information Held - The Ministry of Defence Police do not have Police Horses

Question 5:

How many FULL TIME members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the mounted unit in the following years:

No Information Held

Question 6:

What was the forces total budget in the last ten years, and what budget was allocated to the dog and mounted unit:

Year	Total Force Budget	Budget for Dog Unit	Budget for Mounted Unit
FY12/13	£233,966,499	No Information held	£ N/A
FY13/14	£135,348,742	No Information held	£ N/A
FY14/15	£136,014,254	No Information held	£ N/A
FY15/16	£133,098,000	No Information held	£ N/A
FY16/17	£129,537,735	No Information held	£ N/A
FY17/18	£130,403,581	No Information held	£ N/A

Prior to 2012 the Ministry of Defence Police were an Agency along side the Ministry of Defence Guard Service, therefore we have provided figures from 2012 onwards. Dog unit costs are not held separately, these costs fall within the overall budget.

Question 7:

(Optional) Please add any additional comments you're happy to share re. the information above. Such as details of any changes/impact to working behaviours that may have occurred between 2009-2019. Please also include a contact email for anyone who is happy to be filmed or interviewed as part of this investigation:

N/A

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 Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office