



Ministry of Defence Police

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[REDACTED]
By email – [REDACTED]

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2016/01240 RFI: 35/16
Date: 18 March 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE DOG INFORMATION

We refer to your email dated 27 January 2016 which was acknowledged on 28 January 2016.

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

In your email of 27 January 2016 you requested the following information:

- “1. How many dogs does the Force have, with in this number I would request that a break down of specific roles is given.**
- 2. Individual cost of each type of dog**
- 3. Any breeding and selection programs run by the force**
- 4. Working life span of each k9”**

A search for information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

- 1. How many dogs does the Force have, within this number I would request that a break down of specific roles is given.**

The Ministry of Defence Police has 231 police dogs as of February 2016. The roles of these dogs are: General Purpose, Explosive Search, Firearms Search, Drug Detection, and Tactical Firearms Support.

I have completed a public interest test and concluded that the public interest favours not releasing the information at question 1 regarding the individual breakdown of Detection dog assets. I am therefore withholding this information in accordance with FOI exemption 26 (Defence) and 31 (Law Enforcement).

- Section 26(1) Defence applies because a successful attack, or major disruption, at a sensitive MOD installation would be likely to be prejudicial to the British Isles and to the capability and effectiveness of the Armed Services.
- Section 31 (1) applies because releasing information about exact numbers and roles of police dogs would be likely to be prejudicial to the Defence Mission and would be likely to compromise law enforcement and security at those sites.

2. Individual cost of each type of dog

No information held. The MDP do not collect individual dog expenditure.

3. Any breeding and selection programs run by the force

MDP had a breeding programme however due to financial restraint it is currently suspended and all dogs are sourced by the wider MOD.

4. Working life span of each k9

The working life span of each dog is 8-10 years dependent on veterinary advice/training requirements.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website (<http://www.ico.org.uk>).

Yours sincerely

MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office