



Ministry  
of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/03895/18/05

E-mail: [ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk)

Website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

5 September 2018

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email of 15 March in which you requested the following information:

'The number of dogs euthanized during the period from January 2008 and January 2018.  
The reason in which these animals were euthanized.'

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds some of the information requested. Information in scope of your request prior to 2012 is not held.

I can confirm that from January 2012 to January 2018 274 Military Working Dogs have been euthanised. Military Working Dogs are euthanised for a number of reasons, including welfare, veterinary and behavioural reasons.

Military Working Animals provide an invaluable service to our troops, and every effort is made to rehome them at the end of their service life. Decisions are taken following an extensive assessment of the animals and any potential new home. Sadly, there are some occasions where it is not possible to rehome an animal safely, for example when the animal poses a risk to public safety. In such cases decisions are taken following a full assessment by military veterinarians and dog behaviourist experts.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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,

Army Secretariat