



Ministry
of Defence

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XXXXXXXXXXXX
[XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#)

5 September 2018

Dear XXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email of 21 March in which you requested the following information:

'1. How many military working dogs have been euthanised (put down) between December 1st 2017 and 20th March 2018?

- a) Did any of those dogs euthanised over that period work in Aghanistan?
- b) Did any of those dogs euthanised over that period work in Helmand with British forces?'

You subsequently requested the data was extended to 30 June 2018.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held, and your questions will be answered in turn below. I apologise for the time it has taken to respond to your request.

Question: 1. How many military working dogs have been euthanised (put down) between December 1st 2017 and 30th June 2018?

Answer: 19

Question: a) Did any of those dogs euthanised over that period work in Aghanistan?

Answer: Yes

Question: b) Did any of those dogs euthanised over that period work in Helmand with British forces?'

Answer: The data held by the department does not show which dogs have served in Helmand and therefore this information is not held. However, under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that the majority of dogs that served in Afghanistan would have at some point served with British Forces in Helmand.

Figures provided are single service estimates only and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

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). 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