



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2021/15543

RFI: 370/21

Date: 22 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DOGS IN SERVICE.

We refer to your email dated 17 December 2021 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 20 December 2021.

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

In your email you requested the following information:

I would happily accept Current figures for Question 1 and annual figures for Q's 2 & 3 if it is more practicable to provide them that way.

1) Total number of Dogs in service.

2) Died whilst still in service. by which I mean any cause of death at any time of a dog who is still the equivalent of employed

3) Died whilst in active service. By which I mean any cause of death at a time whilst performing the duties of a canine unit or in transit to same, the equivalent of a police officer being on duty/on the clock

3)b) for these dogs, if there is a categorisation of causes of death I would appreciate the breakdown (e.g. Natural Causes, Road Traffic Accident, Suspect violence, Officer Accident). I appreciate this level of data may not exist.

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.

1) Total number of Dogs in service.

235 dogs as at December 2021.

2) Died whilst still in service. by which I mean any cause of death at any time of a dog who is still the equivalent of employed

Year	Number of dogs
2016	5
2017	2
2018	2
2019	3
2020	6
2021	1

3) Died whilst in active service. By which I mean any cause of death at a time whilst performing the duties of a canine unit or in transit to same, the equivalent of a police officer being on duty/on the clock

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3)b) for these dogs, if there is a categorisation of causes of death I would appreciate the breakdown (e.g. Natural Causes, Road Traffic Accident, Suspect violence, Officer Accident). I appreciate this level of data may not exist.

2021 - 1 dog died as a result of an injury sustained whilst on an exercise run.

2016 - 1 dog died as a result of a haemorrhage whilst on patrol.

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