

Ministry of Defence Police Freedom of Information Manager Ministry of Defence Police Palmer Pavilion,

Building 666, RAF Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 2EA

E-

mail: <u>MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk</u> Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2023/01967 RFI: 056/23 Date: 9th March 2023

Dear

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

We refer to your email dated 13th February 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 14th February 2023.

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:

- 1. How many police dogs were there in the force's dog unit for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (eg. General purpose/ explosive detection)
- 2. Please list the main breeds used in the totals in question 1. Please list the most commonly used breeds first.
- 3. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the force's dog unit for each of the years in the same period.
- 4. What was the force's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit.
- 5. Does the force have its own dog breeding unit?

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

1. How many police dogs were there in the force's dog unit for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (eg. General purpose/ explosive detection)

Year	General Purpose Dogs	Detection Dogs	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
2019	185	45	230
2020	185	45	230
2021	185	45	230
2022	188	45	233
2023	188	45	233

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

German Shepherd Belgian Shepherd (4 types) Dutch Herder English Springer Spaniel Labrador Cocker Spaniel Pointer

3. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the force's dog unit for each of the years in the same period.

Year	Number of Full time members of staff
2012	309
2013	248
2014	251
2015	236
2016	245
2017	239
2018	251
2019	256
2020	248
2021	249
2022	248
2023	248

4. What was the force's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit.

Financial Year	MDP Budget (£M)
2011/2012	140.80
2012/2013	138.80
2013/2014	135.30
2014/2015	136.20
2015/2016	133.10
2016/2017	129.50

2017/2018	130.40
2018/2019	138.23
2019/2020	152.88
2020/2021	156.54
2021/2022	167.26
2022/2023	161.32

The Ministry of Defence Police do not have a specific Dog Unit budget the cost is included in each station budget.

5. Does the force have its own dog breeding unit?

No

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 (email 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