



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00417

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Incidents of Injured Police Dogs

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know, for the years 2011 to 2015 (broken down by year):

The number of incidents when police dogs in your force have sustained injuries while on duty (if possible, please include type of injury and how it was sustained.);

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

2013- One General Purpose (GP) dog injured during rioting, injury to paw.

Question 2

The number of police dogs in your force which have died while still enrolled as a police dog (if possible, please include cause of death for each dog);

Answer

In 2011, 1 dog a German Shepherd dog – working General Purpose Dog (GP) – Medical, unrecoverable strangulated Intestine

In 2012, 1 dog a German Shepherd Dog – working GP – Medical, heart condition

In 2013 there were 2 dogs. A German Shepherd Dog – working GP – Medical, fractured leg due to genetic bone disorder and a German Shepherd Dog – working GP – Medical, list of medical conditions but eventually

neurological which affected his temperament (aggressive towards handler).

In 2014 there were no dogs that died.

In 2015, 1 Dog a Malinois -Working GP- medical, seizures

Question 3

The total cost of medical bills for treating police dogs in your force;

Answer

In Financial Year 210/11 = £15331.74

In Financial Year 2011/12 = £14271.42

In Financial Year 2012/13 = £18435.44
In Financial Year 2013/14 = £29604.12
In Financial Year 2014/15= £24649.45
In Financial Year 2015/16 = £25671.76 year to date

Question 4

The total number of police dogs in your force at any one point in each year.

Answer

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access in regard to numbers of dogs at any one point in each year.

This information is only held as of today as each time a report is run it overrides the previous information.

However as of today's date there are a total of 45 Operational Police Dogs in the PSNI.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.