



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2016-00293

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: Police Dogs

Request and Answer:

Question 1

How many dogs does the Force have, with in this number I would request:

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.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland currently has 44 police dogs.

Question 2

A break down of specific roles is given.

Answer

The disciplines of PSNI dogs are broken down into the following roles:

General Purpose, Explosive Search, Drugs / Cash / Firearms Search, Victim Recovery / Crime Scene detection.

Question 3

Individual cost of each type of dog.

Answer

There is no set cost for each type of police dog, a general purpose police dog can range from £0 to £3,500 and similarly the specialist search dogs can range from £0 to £1,500.

Question 4

Any breeding and selection programs run by the force.

Answer

The PSNI has no dog breeding programme in place. Police dogs are selected on tests for drive, socialisation and environmental factors.

Question 5

Working life span of each k9.

Answer

The working life span of a general purpose police dog is 7 to 8 years and a specialist search dog has a working life span of 8 to 10 years.

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.