



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00981

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Police Dogs

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we 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.

A campaign will start after May 2022 elections called Service Animals NI Sentencing this is to have longer sentencing and higher fines separate in the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to run alongside the Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

I would require the following information from you.

Request 1

How many police dogs do you have?

Answer

At present PSNI have a total of 61 Police dogs.

Request 2

What is the yearly expenditure for all police dogs?

Answer

For the last full calendar year January 2020 – December 2021 the expenditure for the Police dogs was £105,485.40. This figure includes vet fees, dog food, dog purchases, tools & consumables.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their discretion.

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

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