



# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** FOI-2021-02201

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** PSNI Dog Unit Total Expenditure

**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 (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

**Request**

I am writing in regard to government spending on the PSNI dog section.

For the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/20, 2020/21, please provide the total expenditure on the PSNI dog section.

If this can be broken down in any way, that would be much appreciated.

**Clarification Sought**

You stated that you are 'writing in regard to government spending on the PSNI dog section'. Please advise if you are interested in the pay costs of the dog handlers and trainers, or is the predominant focus of this request non pay costs relating to the dogs themselves. For example: purchase of dogs , vet fees, food etc.

**Clarification Received**

I am interested in the total government spending on the PSNI dog section. It would be helpful to break this down into different costs, such as handlers, if possible.

**Answer**

Please see table below outlining the total expenditure of the PSNI Dog Section;

Description	Current Year YTD Accruals £k	Last Year Accruals £k	Full Year 19/20 Accruals £k	Full Year 18/19 Accruals £k	Full Year 17/18 Accruals £k	Full Year 16/17 Accruals £k	Full Year 15/16 Accruals £k
Police Officer Pay Cost including T&S	1,156	2,540	2,653	2,371	2,330	2,184	636
Police Staff Pay Cost including T&S	78	130	139	135	133	146	135
Supplies	3	11	6	6	4	18	1

Incidentals	2	4	5	9	6	14	6
Training & Training Aids	2	5	2	0	5	0	7
Telecoms & Technology (Telephone)	0	0	2	2	2	2	1
Transport	0	0	0	1	0	26	0
Dog Food	10	23	18	21	20	17	16
Vet Fees	29	39	33	33	22	24	27
Purchase of Dogs	17	40	30	27	21	35	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>2,792</b>	<b>2,888</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>839</b>

Please be advised that under records management we are required to keep 6 years of financial records in addition to the current year. System changes have meant the data supplied for the year 2015/16 is incomplete in regards to pay costs.

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](mailto: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/](http://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.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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