

7 October 2024

FOI Ref 17192

Request - You asked us the following:

How many serving police dogs do you currently have?

How many police dog handlers do you currently have?

How many police dog trainers do you currently have?

Please confirm the gender split of female and male police dog handlers?

Please confirm number of police dogs in your force which have died or been euthanised while still enrolled as a police dog (please include cause of death for each dog) from January 2020 until present.

How many police dogs have retired from the force since January 2020 until present day? Please include reason for retirement.

How many police dogs have been euthanised as they're deemed unsuitable for retirement since January 2020 until present day?

How many police dogs have failed their initial training course, and subsequently been re-homed or euthanised since January 2020 until present day?

What is the yearly expenditure for all police dogs?

Do your police dog handlers undertake canine first aid training? If so, how often are they provided a refresher course?

Are your police dogs supplied with personal protective equipment? If so, please state the equipment provided, brand of the equipment and confirm if it's personal issue to each serving police dog?

Are your police dogs provided with a direct financial assistance in their retirement from your police force or police crime commissioner?

How many suspects have been arrested by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day?

How many suspects have been charged by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day?

How many suspects have been convicted by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day?

We received your request on 26/08/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- 1. How many serving police dogs do you currently have? – **Information held.**
- 2. How many police dog handlers do you currently have? – **Information held.**
- 3. How many police dog trainers do you currently have? – **Information held.**
- 4. Please confirm the gender split of female and male police dog handlers? – **Information held.**
- 5. Please confirm number of police dogs in your force which have died or been euthanised while still enrolled as a police dog (please include cause of death for each dog) from January 2020 until present. – **Information held.**
- 6. How many police dogs have retired from the force since January 2020 until present day? Please include reason for retirement. – **Information held.**
- 7. How many police dogs have been euthanised as they're deemed unsuitable for retirement since January 2020 until present day? – **Information held.**
- 8. How many police dogs have failed their initial training course, and subsequently been rehomed or euthanised since January 2020 until present day? – **Information held.**
- 9. What is the yearly expenditure for all police dogs? – **Information held.**
- 10. Do your police dog handlers undertake canine first aid training? If so, how often are they provided a refresher course? – **Information held.**
- 11. Are your police dogs supplied with personal protective equipment? If so, please state the equipment provided, brand of the equipment and confirm if it's personal issue to each serving police dog? – **Information held.**
- 12. Are your police dogs provided with a direct financial assistance in their retirement from your police force or police crime commissioner? – **Information held.**
- 13. How many suspects have been arrested by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day? – **Information held.**



- 14. How many suspects have been charged by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day? – **Information held.**
- 15. How many suspects have been convicted by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day? – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- 1. How many serving police dogs do you currently have? – **Withheld.**
- 2. How many police dog handlers do you currently have? – **Disclosed, 16 (In addition we have 4 in training on an initial General Purpose course)**
- 3. How many police dog trainers do you currently have? – **Disclosed, please see below:**
3 Full time trainers
2 associate trainers (who are operational dog handlers)
1 potential instructor on their initial instructors course
- 4. Please confirm the gender split of female and male police dog handlers? – **Disclosed, please see below:**
15 males
5 females
- 5. Please confirm number of police dogs in your force which have died or been euthanised while still enrolled as a police dog (please include cause of death for each dog) from January 2020 until present. – **Disclosed, please see below:**
1 dog euthanised due to severe liver disease.
1 dog died by chocking.
1 dog died due to stomach torsion.
- 6. How many police dogs have retired from the force since January 2020 until present day? Please include reason for retirement. – **Disclosed, 19 dogs have retired, for the following reasons:**
Age - 8
Injury/Illness - 5
Handler moving role and dog too old to re handle - 2
Handler aggression - 1
No longer achieving required standard – 2
Dog retired when handler died – 1



- 7. How many police dogs have been euthanised as they're deemed unsuitable for retirement since January 2020 until present day? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 8. How many police dogs have failed their initial training course, and subsequently been rehomed or euthanised since January 2020 until present day? – **Disclosed, please see below:**
8 dogs have failed their initial course.
7 were returned to the supplier.
1 was moved to another force.
0 have been euthanised.
- 9. What is the yearly expenditure for all police dogs? – **Disclosed, this varies year by year dependant on what courses we have scheduled and retirements.**
- 10. Do your police dog handlers undertake canine first aid training? If so, how often are they provided a refresher course? – **Disclosed, Yes, refreshed every 3 years.**
- 11. Are your police dogs supplied with personal protective equipment? If so, please state the equipment provided, brand of the equipment and confirm if it's personal issue to each serving police dog? – **Disclosed, all dogs have personal issue ballistic and stab proof vest. The manufacturer is UK Canine Ltd.**
- 12. Are your police dogs provided with a direct financial assistance in their retirement from your police force or police crime commissioner? – **Disclosed, no direct financial assistance is provided in retirement, but handlers or new owners if a dog is rehomed, are encouraged to pay a monthly donation to the Police dog retirement fund. They can then access financial support towards and medical procedures or medication required.**
- 13. How many suspects have been arrested by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day? – **Disclosed, 1.**
- 14. How many suspects have been charged by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day? – **Disclosed, 1.**
- 15. How many suspects have been convicted by your force under 'Finn's Law' aka The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal since 8th June 2019 until present day? – **Disclosed, 1.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

The information can already be found within the public domain.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- [Published items - 17177 | Staffordshire Police](#)

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit