

20 November 2017

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20171965

REQUEST

1. How many police dogs does the force have? Please provide figures every financial year since 2006.
2. How many police dogs have been injured (please state type of injury such as stab, kick etc) in the line of duty since 2006? Please provide breakdown per financial year. How many of those had to retire due to their injuries?
3. How many police dogs have been killed or had to be put to sleep due to injuries sustained in the line of duty in South Yorkshire since 2006? Please provide breakdown per financial year.
4. What is the cost of training a police dog from puppy to active duty? If there are different costs for different categories/specialisms, i.e. drug dogs, bomb dogs etc, please provide a breakdown for each 'type'.
5. What is the cost of annual upkeep for a police dog? Please provide breakdown per financial year since 2006.

RESPONSE

I approached our Joint Specialist Operations Unit for assistance with your request. The Manager of Dog Training has provided the information from which the following responses have been compiled:

Question 1

Financial year	No of Dogs	Dog Role
2006 / 2007	76	40 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2007 / 2008	76	41 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2008 / 2009	76	42 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2009 / 2010	76	43 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2010 / 2011	76	44 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2011 / 2012	76	45 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2012 / 2013	76	46 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2013 / 2014	76	47 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2014 / 2015	76	48 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2015 / 2016	76	49 Patrol & 36 Specialist
2016* / 2017	41	24 Patrol & 24 Specialist
1 April - 31 Aug	51	28 Patrol & 23 Specialist
Sept** 2017 -2018	30	15 patrol & 15 Specialist

* South Yorkshire Police amalgamated with Humberside Police

** Amalgamation with Humberside ended

Question 2

One dog slightly injured in 2014 following a road traffic accident where a drunk driver hit the parked dog van. (The handlers retired police dog, also in the van, sustained serious injuries and had to be euthanized).

No Police dog has had to retire following injuries.

Question 3

South Yorkshire Police have a policy that no healthy dog will be euthanized.

1 dog has been euthanized following injuries sustained on duty. The Police Dog was being exercised, ran out into the road and was struck by a passing vehicle sustaining extensive back injuries.

(1 other dog was euthanized on duty, but not from injuries sustained on duty. The police dog became very unwell showing signs of shock. The handler took the dog to the vet who discovered a blockage and was subsequently diagnosed with stomach cancer.

Questions 4 & 5

As you may be aware, Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act applies to all recorded information a public authority may hold. There is no recorded information that sets out the total costs of training a puppy through to active duty or the annual upkeep of a police dog. As such, our formal response to this question would have to be one of 'no information held'.

However the Dog Training Manager has provided the following estimates as a gesture of goodwill.

The cost of a South Yorkshire Puppy for 12 months is £300 Food and £100 vets, estimated. Total £400. Estimated.

A patrol dog course will cost approx. £15,000 broken down into the Police officers wage, approx. £9,000 for 3 months. Then £500 per week instructor £6,000.

Equipment and kennels and food etc is an estimated £3,500.

Total £18,500.

The specialist dogs are reduced by the length of the course. Drugs, 6 weeks £7,500, estimated and explosive detection 8 weeks £9,500 estimate.