

30 March 2009

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20090062

Thank you for your request for information in relation to:

1. Which cases has Eddie the Springer spaniel sniffer dog been used in within the South Yorkshire Force area over the last five years?

Eddie, the specialist dog is no longer with South Yorkshire Police. He and his handler left the Force in August 2007. The information supplied therefore relates to his service between 2003 and 2007.

Information relating directly to the nature of each Victim Search Dog deployment, if made public could cause unnecessary distress to the persons and families connected with the deceased. However, we can provide the following details regarding Victim Search Dog deployments between 2003 and 2007:

As two teams working together: handler Ellis and dog Frankie, with handler Grime and dog Eddie have been deployed on twenty occasions, with the recovery of four bodies.

Working alone, Grime/Eddie have been deployed on seventeen occasions with the recovery of one body and Ellis/Frankie have been deployed on five occasions with the recovery of three bodies, this includes the recovery of two women in one grave.

2. Which cases has Eddie the Springer spaniel sniffer dog been used in outside the South Yorkshire Force Area over the last five years? Please provide a breakdown for each year.

Out of the twenty occasions where the dog teams were deployed together, two deployments were in the South Yorkshire Police Force area and the remainder were out of the force.

All seventeen deployments for Grime/Eddie working alone were to external forces.

Two deployments for Ellis/Frankie were in the South Yorkshire Police Force area and the remaining three were to external forces.

3. What does the South Yorkshire constabulary charge for Eddie the sniffer dog's services?

The daily charges for the deployment of Eddie were £700 per day Monday to Friday and £900 per day for weekly leave days and bank holidays. These charges have not changed over the last five years and are still applicable to date.

4. Please could you provide a breakdown of the fees and expenses charged for each case Eddie the Springer spaniel sniffer dog has been deployed in outside the South Yorkshire area in the last three years?

The breakdown for the fees and expenses charged for the deployment of Eddie the Springer Spaniel Victim Search Dog outside the force area are calculated as follows:

The figures are based on 2006-2007 costing:

Salary cost Police Constable: £41,900, 8 hour productive day £192.20

Deployment based on 16 hour day Mon to Friday more than 7 days notice

Cost for 8 hour working day

Cost for 8 hours overtime

NI on above

Cost dog for the day £10.52

Use of vehicle based on 300 miles

5% Admin fee

The total amounts to £837 but SYP would charge £700

Deployment based on 16 hour day Saturday or Sunday including Bank Holidays or less 7 days notice

Cost for 16 hours at double time

NI on above

Cost dog for the day £10.52

Use of vehicle based on 300 miles

5% Admin fee

The total amounts to £1035.50 but SYP would charge £900

5. To whom is money made payable for the services of Eddie the sniffer dog?

All monies received for the deployment of Eddie during his time with South Yorkshire Police were paid to South Yorkshire Police.

6. Who owns Eddie the sniffer dog?

Ownership of Eddie was transferred from South Yorkshire Police to his handler Martin Grime when he retired from the Force in 2007.

7. What training did Eddie receive to assist him in his duties?

When Eddie was with South Yorkshire Police he received training in line with the ACPO dog committee standards for specialist dog training. The training was and in relation to current dogs is 18 days per annum.

www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/dog_training_manual.doc