



Geneen Bill
Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

14th September 2018

Our Ref: Beds FOI2018/04756 Cambs FOI2018 04759 Herts FOI2018 04763

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/04756

I write in connection with your request for information received on 22nd August. I note you seek access to the following information:

1) the number of police dogs you had in service for each of the last five financial year (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14)

2) The number of police dogs killed or injured in the line of duty for each of the last five financial year (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14). Please break the figures between killed and injured and provide me with details (for instance: nature of the injury, circumstances when the dog died/got injured etc) where it is possible.

) The cost to treat injured police dogs for each of the last five financial year (2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14)

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

Response – Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Constabulary work together within a collaborated Dog Unit. The unit currently has 46 dogs. We do not keep historic number of police dogs.

We do not hold records in relation to police dog injuries as all dogs will attend a vet when treatment is required. Therefore we would have to manually search through all records to try to establish if any relate to injuries on duty. This would take in excess of the 18 hour limit.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Bedfordshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.