

1. Is BWV currently used by dog handlers within your force?

BWV is issued and used by all dog handlers and they are bound by the force BWV policy.

2. When was it introduced and is it mandatory?

BWV being issued is mandatory and there is an expectation that it is activated when officers get out of their vehicle with the dog, however they work in dynamic situations that are fast moving and this is not always possible - they follow the force policy in relation to the use of BWV.

West Midlands Police has been using body cameras since March 2013, on a small trial basis.

3. Please confirm the number of police dog bite incidents involving members of the public (including suspects and detainees) in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.

We are unable to provide data prior to 2018, locating this data would require a manual search and would exceed the FOI time limit, please see below for data since April 2018.

April 2018 - 2019 - 111

April 2019 - 2020 - 91

4. Please confirm the number of complaints made by the public regarding a police dog bite incident in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.

Please see below table for complaints concerning dog bites.

For clarity:

- **Total complaints 2014 – Feb 2020 is under the 2012 Police Regulations. This refers to ‘recordable complaints’ only. There may have been other complaints from the public which were informally resolved, without the requirement to formally record.**
- **Total complaints Feb 2020 onwards is under 2020 Police Regulations. This includes all complaints from members of the public.**

YEAR	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Total		1	2	4	7	5	1	3	23

5. Please confirm the amount of money paid out in compensation to members of the public who have been bitten by a police dog in the following periods: 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide this information. The way in which files have been held/recorded do not sub categorise the information in an easily retrievable format. We can only provide data on the number and value of public liability claims where we have made a payment of compensation and to find the requested information we would need to conduct a manual review and would exceed the FOI time limit.