

The information requested concerns the general -purpose and specialist police dogs which is defined by Ingram 2011.

The general- purpose police dogs (GPD) are trained to track a human scent and to deliver a controlled bite, which is deemed a success when the handler verbally delivers the “off” command and the animal immediately releases its bite.

In addition, the term GPD also incorporates tactical dogs who are only trained to carry out a determined bite regardless of if the suspect is aggressive, armed or passive.

A specialist dog is trained to detect scent such as, firearms, illegal substances, and others (Ingram, 2011).

1. On how many occasions have general purpose police dogs deployed to assist operational policing between April 2015 – April 2020?
2. On how many occasions have cash dogs been deployed to assist operational policing between April 2015 -April 2020?
3. On how many occasions have drug dogs been deployed to assist operational policing between April 2015 – April 2020?
4. On how many occasions have cadaver dogs been deployed to assist operational policing between April 2015- April 2020?
5. Based on the number of deployments of general-purpose dogs in the period covered by Q1 what operations were they used for by approximate percentage? (Searching for specific items, missing person, detaining, riots, crowd control).
6. Based on the number of deployments of general-purpose dogs in the period covered by Q1, on how many occasions has deployment resulted in a bite to a member of the public?

**Due to a change of systems we are unable to locate and retrieve the data for the requested date range, therefore we are unable to answer questions 1 – 6 without undertaking a manual review, this search would exceed the FOI time limit.**

7. How many general-purpose dogs does your force currently have in total and how many of those are currently operationally ready?

**We have 42 operational general purpose police dogs**

8. What geographical boundary does your dog section cover?

**Our dogs cover the whole West midlands Police force area 24/7**