

## Question 1:

How many military working dogs were there in the force's dog unit in the following years - 2013-2022. Please Specify the type of job these dogs did (detection, search & rescue, general patrolling officers, military etc)?

**We do not keep records that can be reported on yearly. We currently have 81 operational dogs.**

## Question 2:

Please list the main breeds used in the totals in question 1. Please specify the amounts of each breed if possible/ or in order of most common first?

**English springer spaniel – 23**

**Malinois – 23**

**German Shepherd – 14**

**Cocker spaniel – 6**

**Sprocker - 6**

**German Shepherd x Malinois – 3**

**Dutch shepherd – 2**

**Pointer – 2**

**Springador – 1**

## Question 3:

How many members of staff (handlers, trainers, officers etc) were working in the force's dog unit during the years specified in question 1. If an answer is not possible, could you identify how many members of staff are required within the K9's unit per year?

**This information is exempt by virtue of S31 – Law Enforcement**

## Question 4:

What was the forces total budget allocated to the dog unit in the years specified? What is the training & running cost of the dog unit?

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Budget allocated to Dog Section as a whole</b>	<b>Budget allocated to the Dog Training Section specifically (only available from FY 2019-20 onwards as previously all budgets were under one area)</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	3,815,600	
<b>2014-15</b>	3,815,100	
<b>2015-16</b>	3,950,800	
<b>2016-17</b>	4,296,300	
<b>2017-18</b>	4,314,600	
<b>2018-19</b>	4,062,000	
<b>2019-20</b>	4,264,130	688,600
<b>2020-21</b>	4,506,200	633,800
<b>2021-22</b>	4,769,500	489,700
<b>2022-23</b>	4,823,700	516,600

**Please note the following: -**

**All budgets are rounded to the nearest £100**

**We work in financial years not calendar years, so we are only able to provide the data in this way.**

**Additionally, there will be costs held on other budgets in relation to the dog section but as these are part of other central budgets they are not separately identifiable. These may include items relating to IT, Estates and Shared Services costs.**

**The request mentions training, from 2019-20 we introduced the Dog Training Centre as a separate service area so we have shown the budgets specifically allocated to this area in the years where this is possible.**

Question 5:

What is the training process of a working dog like (length in months/ years etc)? How often do they get training once they're working officers in the force? How many years do they have in action, before they retire?

**Within WMP we have a breeding programme. At around 10 weeks old puppies are allocated to volunteers who look after them and are developed with support from our puppy development team. The puppies and volunteers attend monthly for training. The initial courses range from 13 weeks – annual accreditation and mandatory 80 hours if 4 years old with 3 or less accreditations if over 4 years old with more than 3 accreditations 50 hours. Dependant on the role of the dog there are additional courses that need to be completed.**

**We do not retire a dog on a specific age, we look at the dog's ability to complete the role.**

Question 6:

How many of the K9 unit got injured (or killed) during working hours? Did any require being put down (if so, amounts if possible)? Were there any incidents (unit acting irrationally - leading to unit being put down, or out of action) recorded in the years specified? Do any of the dog unit show signs of PTSD or other disorders due to their working life? If so, can they seek help for this after they are no longer in action at the force?

**We do not record this information within the systems that we have.**

**In terms of dogs suffering PTSD we had one dog who we believe suffered this after an RTC and he was immediately retired to his handler.**

**[Louise and Wolfie - Kennel Club Friends For Life 2020 - YouTube](#)**