



14^h May 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001428/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 12th April 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

Looking at the number of police dogs and horses used by forces in the UK between 1st Jan 2009 - 31st Dec 2018.

- 1 How many police dogs were there in the force's dog unit in the following years (2009 - 2018), broken down by job type.

Apprehension/attack dogs
Detection Dogs (including Search & Rescue)
Total Number of dogs

- 2 Please list the main breeds used in the totals in question 1. Please list the most commonly used breeds first:

- 3 How many FULL TIME members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the force's dog unit in the following years:

- 4 How many police horses were there in the force's mounted unit in the following years (2009 - 2018).

- 5 How many FULL TIME members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the mounted unit in the following years (2009 - 2018)

- 6 What was the forces total budget in the last ten years, and what budget was allocated to the dog and mounted unit:

Total Force Budget
Budget for Dog Unit
Budget for Mounted Unit

- 7 (Optional) Please add any additional comments you're happy to share re. the information above. Such as details of any changes/impact to working behaviours that may have occurred between 2009-2019. Please also include a contact email for anyone who is happy to be filmed or interviewed as part of this investigation:

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 8th May 2019.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have located the following information as relevant to your request.

- Q1 The Joint Norfolk and Suffolk Dog Unit does not maintain a record of the number of police dogs it has previously had. The number of Dog Handlers has been provided for question 3 below. Each handler will have a General Purpose dog and most handlers will also have a specialist dog. There are currently 25 dogs with specialisms in explosives, drugs, weapons or cash.
- Q2 The main breeds are German Shepherd for the General Purpose dogs and Spaniels for the specialist dogs. The Constabularies will also use Belgian Mallinois and Labradors.
- Q3 Please see below figures for the number of Dog Handlers:-

Year	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
31/03/2009	18	12
31/03/2010	18	11
31/03/2011	17	12
31/03/2012	17	10
31/03/2013	16	9
31/03/2014	15	11
31/03/2015	14	11
31/03/2016	14	13
31/03/2017	15	11
31/03/2018	15	11
31/03/2019	14	12

- Q4 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies do not have any force owned horses. Should any horses be required for an event, such as football, these will be sourced from other force areas via mutual aid.

In Norfolk, members of the Special Constabulary can use their own horses when on duty. These are non-operational and are used in a PR capacity and rural intelligence gathering.

Suffolk Constabulary has a Police Support Volunteer Scheme which signs up members of the public to wear a tabard and report anything when out riding. A personal case study from a volunteer can be accessed via the link provided below:-

http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/lyn_krebs.pdf

- Q5 Not applicable
- Q6 Please see figures below from 2013/14 onwards. Information prior to 2013/14 is not held. There is no budget in relation to horses.

Total Force Budget		
Year	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
2013/14	£149,787,000	£114,839,000
2014/15	£148,154,000	£113,098,000
2015/16	£146,780,000	£111,621,000
2016/17	£148,928,000	£113,096,000
2017/18	£149,713,000	£113,518,000

2018/19	£154,555,000	£116,629,000
2019/20	£164,782,000	£124,363,000

Dog Section Budget				
Year	NORFOLK		SUFFOLK	
	NORFOLK ONLY	JOINT	SUFFOLK ONLY	JOINT
2013/14	-	£834,848	£26,453	£642,759
2014/15	-	£845,909	£14,108	£651,275
2015/16	£100,000	£871,653	-	£671,095
2016/17	£109,060	£873,601	-	£664,429
2017/18	£90,110	£878,405	-	£665,365
2018/19	£87,790	£839,730	-	£633,480
2019/20	£58,771	£878,313	-	£662,587

Q7 Please see link below to the Dog Section page on the Constabularies websites:-
<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/dog-section>
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/about-us/our-organisation/our-departments/specialist-operations>

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.

Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Norfolk Constabulary
Operations and Communications Centre
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW
OR
Email: freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700