| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0482  Responded to: 07 March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please be advised that as per our [record retention](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.pdf) rules, information prior to 2016/17 is no longer held. As such, in terms of section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

## 1. How many police dogs were there in the force’s dog unit for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (eg. General purpose/ explosive detection)

| **Year** | **General Purpose** | **Firearms Support** | **Explosive** | **Victim Recovery** | **Drugs** | **Training** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2016/2017 | 70 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 21 |
| 2017/2018 | 65 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 30 | 18 |
| 2018/2019 | 66 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 28 | 24 |
| 2019/2020 | 71 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 28 | 30 |
| 2020/2021 | 72 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 27 | 28 |
| 2021/2022 | 68 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 29 | 24 |

It is recognised that the figures provided for the period 2016 to date may not be wholly accurate as dogs will drop in and out of service over the course of a year.

As an annual overview however, the figures provide a snapshot of information at the time.

To establish more detailed information a manual trawl of paper records would be required, an exercise we estimate would exceed the £600 cost limit set out at section 12 of the Act.

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

General Purpose Dogs - German Shepherd, Belgian Shepherd, Mixed Breed, Dutch Herder

Specialist Search Dogs - Spaniel Labrador, Retriever, Mixed Breed

## 3. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the force’s dog unit for each of the years in the same period.

2016/2017 - 80

2017/2018 - 82

2018/2019 - 83

2019/2020 - 83

2020/2021 - 81

2021/2022 - 81

## 4. What was the force’s total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit.

Amounts allocated to the Dog Unit per year

2016/2017 - £4,075,564

2017/2018 - £4,426,812

2018/2019 - £4,520,766

2018/2020 - £4,685,141

2020/2021 - £4,564,180

2021/2022 - £4,751,826

## 5. Does the force have its own dog breeding unit?

Police Scotland does not have its own dog breeding unit.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.