



Heddlu Police

DYFED-POWYS

FOI Reference: 051/2018

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your force:

1. Please could I find out if your force breeds (or users breeders) to provide police dogs?
2. If you do not use either of the above methods, please can you explain where you get your supply of new police dogs from.
3. Please can you tell me how many new police dogs have been trained for each year for the past five years, as in the number for 2013 through to 2017?
4. What is the average age (or age range) of a new dog undergoing training to become a police dog. i.e is it a puppy?
5. Can you please briefly explain what training entails and how long it lasts for?
6. Please can you tell me how many of the dogs referenced in question four above failed their training?
7. Please can you tell me how many police dogs that start their training fail?
8. Please can you tell me what happens to these dogs.
9. How many dogs undergoing police training to become new police dogs have been euthanised for each year between 2013 to 2017. What was the reason and how old was each dog?

Response 1:

I can confirm that there is no information held by Dyfed Powys Police. This is as a result of the fact that Dyfed Powys Police does not have a specific breeding programme for its police dogs regardless of breed or specialisation.

Response 2:

I can confirm that Dyfed Powys Police does hold the information requested, as detailed below:

- Other police forces
- Donation of dogs
- Purchased from specific breeders
- Sourced from dog trainers
- Some dogs are sourced from the continent

Responses 3, 6 & 7:

I can confirm that Dyfed Powys Police does hold the information requested, as detailed below:

Prior to any structured training a dog may be visited at their home address or kept for as little as a few days to a few months, to see if they acclimatise to the environment and if their temperament is suitable for that of a working police dog.

Structured Training

	Number of Dogs Trained	Licensed	Not Licensed
2013	12	3	9
2014	4	1	3
2015	9	2	7
2016	8	3	5
2017	11	3	8

Response 4:

I can confirm that there is no recorded information held by Dyfed Powys Police relevant to this question. However, the Dog Section has advised that typically a police dog can begin its training from 12 months old to 2 years old.

Response 5:

I can confirm that Dyfed Powys Police does hold the information requested, as detailed below:

Training for a General Purpose dog should last approximately three months, however each force is permitted to train the dogs as they see fit as long as the final outline of the disciplines being mastered are of the same quality as outlined by the ACPO Police Dogs Manual of Guidance 2011 (<http://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2011/201103UOPDogsMoG1.1.pdf>). If the dog fails at any discipline during its final assessment, one month's reprieve can be given at the discretion of the assessor. Improvements can then be made so that the dog can reach the required standard. The same is true for the handler.

The disciplines required of a fully licensed police dog are as follows;

Obedience

- Heel on leash
- Heel free
- Recall
- Stand
- Sit
- Down
- Introduction to distance control
- Speak (on command)
- Send away
- Re-direction

Searching

- Tracking
- Article Search
- Search for person(s)
- Person Searches
- Bite Work
- Chase and Detain
- Recall from Chase
- Apprehend an aggressive suspect with a weapon
- Apprehend an aggressive suspect with a gun

Crowd Control

Specialist Dogs

There are various types of specialisations for these dogs to become proficient in, some disciplines can be trained into the same dog, and others are completely exclusive.

- Drugs Dog (often further trained to locate cash and firearms residue)
- Explosive Dog
- Victim Recovery/Drowned Victim Recovery/Forensic Evidence Search Dogs

Response 8:

I can confirm that Dyfed Powys Police does hold the information requested, as detailed below:

Dogs that do not pass the initial suitability assessment are normally sent back to the source from where they came. If the dog was gifted to the police, we make every effort to find a suitable home and family for the dog to be placed with.

Response 9:

I can confirm that there is no information held by Dyfed Powys Police. This is as a result of the fact that Dyfed Powys Police have not euthanised any dogs for failing training.

In addition to the above response, under Section 16 Duty to Advise and Assist, I have included hyperlinks below which may be helpful to you:

'Dog Section' on the Dyfed Powys Police website:

<https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/what-we-do/dog-section/about-the-dog-section/>

Police Dogs Manual of Guidance 2011:

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2011/201103UOPDogsMoG1.1.pdf>

It should be noted that as a result of the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such information that the information released may or may not be accurate.