



May 2019

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001428/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](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

<b>Dog Section Budget</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>NORFOLK</b>		<b>SUFFOLK</b>	
	<b>NORFOLK ONLY</b>	<b>JOINT</b>	<b>SUFFOLK ONLY</b>	<b>JOINT</b>
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>