| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3183  Responded to: 09 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**From 2011 - present:**

**The number of police dogs in service**

We currently have 124 licenced Police Dogs (PD) in service of various skill. We also have a number Training Police Dogs. There is no legacy data 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.

**What police dog breeds used**

We use the following dog breeds

German Shepherds

Dutch Herders

Cross breeds of the German Shepherds/ Malinois/ Dutch Herders

Labradors

Springer Spaniels

Cocker Spaniels

Sprockers

**How many times the dog has had to use its bite to detain or capture a suspect**

206 bite incidents have been recorded since 01 April 2023 when Police Scotland was formed. There is no legacy data 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.

**Any police dog injuries and deaths**

Having considered this question in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine every vet record and then check as to the cause of injury - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

**Would you also be able to provide me with information about what dog breeds are used for different tasks:**

Search and rescue **-** we do deploy General Purpose dogs to locate missing people, they are predominantly GSD, Malinois, Dutch Herders and cross’ of those breeds. We don’t do Search and Rescue, that’s a task that is carried out by SARDA dogs.

Detection **-** Labradors, Springer Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels and Sprockers.

Arresting & General patrol– the above breeds also do patrol work and criminal (bite) work.

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.