

Freedom of Information request reference number: 7408.1

Date of response: 17 May 2023

Request:

- 1. How many dogs were part of the fire service for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (eg. Fire investigation search dog)*
- 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 service's dog unit for each of the years in the same period?*
- 4. What was the service's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?*
- 5. Does the service have its own dog breeding unit?*

Response:

Please see my response to each question in turn below:

- 1. How many dogs were part of the fire service for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by job type. (eg. Fire investigation search dog)*

In relation to Fire Investigation Dogs (FID), the LFB employs two FID's (this does not include FID's that may be considered for retirement or being trained to become FID's)
LFB also has 1 Wellbeing Dog

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

*For FID's Cocker and Springer Spaniels are the most common breeds used (more than 10 years ago Labrador Retrievers were also used)
The Wellbeing Dog is a Rescue Crossbreed*

- 3. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) were working in the service's dog unit for each of the years in the same period?*

1 Wellbeing Dog Handler
The pilot started in October 2022

Two FID handlers were employed however it is not considered a full-time role as dog handling is a 'bolt on' role in addition to the main role of Fire Investigation Officer. (Training is provided by an external company)

4. *What was the service's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?*

Please see below the London Fire Brigade budget since 2015. We publish our budget and statement of accounts on our website [here](#).

Date	Net Expenditure Budget
2015/2016	382.4m
2016/2017	382.4m
2017/2018	382.4m
2018/2019	386.8m
2019/2020	392.3m
2020/2021	405.4m
2021/2022	421.8m

Although a budget was not allocated to fire dogs, I can provide you with the spend against the fire dog account since 2019. This cost was not identifiable pre-2018.

Year	Spend
2019	-6,774
2020	2,595
2021	890
2022	-8,913

5. *Does the service have its own dog breeding unit?*
No, fire service dogs are sourced from outside the LFB.

I hope you find this information of use. Should you have any further questions please do let me know.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#)