

 West Mercia POLICE		POLICY
Security Classification	OFFICIAL	
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act 2000	Yes	

POLICY TITLE	Deployment of Police Dogs
POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER	WMP165
Version	1.0

POLICY OWNERSHIP	
DIRECTORATE	LOCAL POLICING
BUSINESS AREA	OPERATIONS

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE	July 2021
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	July 2024
RISK RATING	LOW
EQUALITY ANALYSIS	LOW

West Mercia Police welcome comments and suggestions from the public and staff about the contents and implementation of this policy.
Please e-mail contactus@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

1.0 POLICY OUTLINE

This policy will explain how West Mercia Police will approach the use of police dogs.

This will apply to the care, training and tactical deployment of police dogs across the force or whether assisting officers in other forces.

This policy is supported by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Police Dog Manual of Guidance.

2.0 PURPOSE OF POLICY

This policy ensures that West Mercia Police maintain an effective resource of appropriately trained dog handlers and dogs to deal with any incident or event where the use of police dogs may be necessary.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS of the POLICY

This policy is directed by the NPCC Police Dogs Manual of Guidance. This document provides guidance regarding the selection, training and licensing of police dog. As such this policy should be read in conjunction with this document.

Consideration has been given to the compatibility of this policy and related procedures with the Human Rights Act; with particular reference to the legal basis of its precepts; the legitimacy of its aims; the justification and proportionality of the actions intended by it; that it is the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making processes and outcomes of action.

This policy is relevant to the obligations placed upon the police service to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination,
- Promote equality of opportunity, and
- Promote good race relations between people of different racial groups.

The legal basis for this policy comes from the common law duty of the police to protect life and property, prevent and detect crime, keep the peace and in particular the following statutes: -

- Criminal Law Act 1967
- Equality Act 2010
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- Human Rights Act 1998.

4.0 CONSULTATION

In preparing this policy consultation has been undertaken with the Police Federation and Operational Communications centre.

It was then circulated to the Critical friends Group for consultation.

<i>Business Lead Consulted</i>	<i>Date Consulted</i>
Supt LP	July 2021

5.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

The history and rationale for change to policy will be recorded using the below chart:

Date	Author / Reviewer	Amendment(s) & Rationale	Approval / Adoption
		Previously approved at JNCC meeting	JNCC 29/01/2015
Jun 2021	G Preece	Review – minor changes to procedure to reflect change in structure based upon fact that first Authorised Professional Practice in respect of Dog Policing is expected in 2022	July 2021

6.0 PROCEDURE

Please see separate procedure document.

7.0 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Equality Analysis (EA), Health & Safety Assessment (HAS) and Risk Assessment (RA) associated with this document are available on request.

8.0 MONITORING / EVALUATION

The monitoring and review of this policy is the responsibility of the policy owner.