



Date: 27th June 2023
Our ref: GSA 2997/23



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 2997/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/06/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please break down the data by calendar year: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date.

Q1 - How many dogs were seized by your force in the last ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and reason for the seizure.

Q2 - How many dogs were destroyed by your force in the last ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and reason for the destruction.

Q3 - How many people died after being attacked by a dog in your area in the last ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and the age of the victim.

Q4 - How many dog attacks did you record in your area in the past ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and the age of the victim.

Q5 - In the last ten years, how many people have been arrested for breeding or selling a banned dog breed under the dangerous dogs act?

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information for question 5 and the "breed of dog" in an easily retrievable format. There is no offence for this type of crime on our custody reporting system. When an

individual has been arrested for the above offences, this would have been recorded under 'Other (Specify in Circumstances of Arrest Field)' therefore to provide a response to question 5 would require a manual review of all custody records for a 10 year period. As it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

Therefore as per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a much shorter time period. The resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1 and 2

Caveats:

- DDA 1991 offences include for section 1 and 3. Often dogs are seized for multiple reasons, for example suspected section 1 having committed a section 3 offence. Also dogs are often seized for a DDA offence and for AWA, in these cases the lead offence has been selected.
- The dogs in the other category include for assaults, affrays, breaches of court orders, hunting, worrying and often the puppies of dogs seized for DDA 1991 or AWA offences.

Year	Total Seized	DDA 1991 Offence	Animal Welfare Offence (AWA)	Other	Total Destroyed
2014	203	186	7	10	70
2015	195	168	6	21	72
2016	138	125	8	5	56
2017	159	140	14	5	51
2018	99	86	4	9	35
2019	155	103	35	17	50
2020	109	80	22	7	32
2021	119	84	32	3	26
2022	358	226	132	41	107
2023	250	162	52	36	48

Question 3

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

1. The crime grand total is all the crimes counted based on the crime reference(s) HO Code(s) 008/21 & 008/22 - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog for the period 01/01/2017-31/05/2023. Data prior to this is not available.
2. The data relates to when the crime was recorded and not when the incident occurred
3. Where possible duplicates have been removed.
4. Please note the above search returned 10,475 records, however, searches on keywords 'fatal', 'fatally', 'death' & 'dies' returned no results. Therefore, the Police Coroner's Trackers were searched for the same period & returned the following results.

Due to low numbers the data provided cannot be broken down as requested as by providing all this information would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused.

Total	4
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Question 4

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes recorded under the below Home Office codes with a created date between 1st January 2014 and 14th June 2023, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.
 - 008/21 Owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether in a public place or not) injuring any person or assistance dog
 - 008/22 Owner or person in charge allowing a dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.
- There are crimes in this response with no victim attached. These may be state based crimes (which do not need a victim), crimes where the victim has not been identified, or they may be errors.
- Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
 - Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.

- The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.

Year	Number of dog attacks
2014	590
2015	912
2016	987
2017	1076
2018	893
2019	837
2020	818
2021	922
2022	1257
2023	690
Total	8982

Victims age	Number of victims age
<18	2042
19 - 25	693
26 -34	1221
35 - 42	1065
43 - 49	990
50 - 56	939
57 - 64	714
>65	807
Unknown	389
Total	8879

[REDACTED]

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