

Date: 17th October 2023
Our ref: FOI/23/011418/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. *The number of offences your force recorded of out-of-control dogs causing injury for the calendar years from 2014-2022 and for the current year (2023) to date.***
- 2. *The number of seizures of dogs by your force for each of the calendar years 2014-2022 and for the current calendar year (2023) to date.***
- 3. *Please break down the breeds of the dogs in each of the years in (2) above***
- 4. *Of the dogs in each of the years in (2) above, how many were seized as a result of being dangerously out of control?***
- 5. *Of the dogs in each of the years in (2) above how many were seized on suspicion of being a banned breed?***
- 6. *Of the dogs in each of the years in (4) above how many were confirmed to be a banned breed?***

Please could you provide this information in spreadsheet format.

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 that you have requested for questions 3 in an easily retrievable format. Breeds were not recorded centrally until 2022. To provide the information

requested would require a manual review of all records to determine the dog breed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours 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 or a reduction in the volume of questions asked. 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 exceeded (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

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 3rd October 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.
- Some offences may only be available for part of this time period i.e. they may have started or stopped being used during this period.

Total crime count – 9,484

Question 2

2014 – 204 dogs seized.
2015 – 207 dogs seized.

2016 – 151 dogs seized.
2017 – 160 dogs seized.
2018 – 101 dogs seized.
2019 – 165 dogs seized.
2020 – 110 dogs seized.
2021 – 120 dogs seized.
2022 – 413 dogs seized.
2023 – 407 dogs seized (up until the end of September).

Question 3

Section 12 – please see above.

Question 4

Dangerously out of control.

2014 – 42 dogs seized for section 3 DDA 1991 offences.
2015 – 64 dogs seized.
2016 – 59 dogs seized.
2017 – 66 dogs seized.
2018 – 48 dogs seized.
2019 – 63 dogs seized.
2020 – 53 dogs seized.
2021 – 56 dogs seized.
2022 - 195 dogs seized.
2023 – 231 dogs seized (up until the end of September).

Question 5

Seized suspected banned breed/type.

2014 – 123 dogs seized suspected banned breed/type.
2015 – 86 dogs seized.
2016 – 70 dogs seized.
2017 – 61 dogs seized.
2018 – 33 dogs seized.
2019 – 34 dogs seized.
2020 – 16 dogs seized.
2021 – 19 dogs seized.
2022 – 42 dogs seized.
2023 – 38 dogs seized (up until the end of September).

Additional to Q4 and Q5, occasionally dogs are seized suspected banned breed/type and where they have also been dangerously out of control. Figures as follows;

2014 – 18 dogs seized.
2015 – 16 dogs seized.
2016 – 8 dogs seized.
2017 – 13 dogs seized.
2018 – 5 dogs seized.
2019 – 14 dogs seized.
2020 – 10 dogs seized.
2021 – 5 dogs seized.
2022 – 16 dogs seized.
2023 – 12 dogs seized (up until the end of September).

Question 6

GMP can only provide data of confirmed banned breed/type for each year whether seized section 1 or section 3 DDA 1991, as follows;

2014 – 72 dogs confirmed banned breed/type.

2015 – 36 dogs confirmed.

2016 – 36 dogs confirmed.

2017 – 30 dogs confirmed.

2018 – 17 dogs confirmed.

2019 – 18 dogs confirmed.

2020 – 11 dogs confirmed.

2021 – 6 dogs confirmed.

2022 – 13 dogs confirmed.

2023 – 10 dogs confirmed.