



Date: 30/08/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011154/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011154/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/08/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Please can you tell me the number of dog thefts reported to your force for each of the following financial years: 2018-19, 2019-2020, 2020-21 , 2021-22 and 2022-23?**
- 2. If possible, please state the three most commonly stolen breeds of dog and the number of each taken?**
- 3. Please can you tell me the number of charges there were for dog thefts brought against people in the years stated above?**
- 4. If possible within the cost limit - how many of the dogs reported stolen in question 1 were found or recovered?**

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Property data is not currently available for use in the new performance system. This means we can't provide information about property including items stolen during crimes, at the moment. We could conduct a search using keywords, then the crimes returned by this search would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain whether they are relevant to this request and for the breed. From initial searches resulted in over 10,000 records being produced for 1 years' worth of data which would need to be manually reviewed. As such, 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 and possibly selected districts I.E Bolton, Wigan, Bury etc. We would also suggest including a list of keywords that you wish for us to search under. Please note that the word DOG would be likely to return a large number of irrelevant results e.g. dangerous dogs offences. 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