

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013023/S

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Wednesday, 14 August 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013023/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/08/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

I'd like to know how many big cat sightings have been reported in Wigan and the surrounding areas over the past 20 years.

Clarification received on 29/07/2024

To clarify, any incidents or reports that refer to a large black cat, tan/sandy coloured cat, large black or tan unidentified animals, missing and/or killed livestock that involved predation or any other reports that involve unidentified animals being sighted.

Keywords to search:

Big cat

Unidentified animal

Large black animal

Large black cat

Large tan cat

Large tan animal

Large cat

Wounded livestock

Result of Searches

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

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 incidents with a created date between 1st July 2004 and 30th June 2024 where the district name is Wigan and where the title, details or contact comments contains either: BIG CAT, UNIDENTIFIED ANIMAL, LARGE BLACK ANIMAL, LARGE BLACK CAT, LARGE TAN CAT, LARGE TAN ANIMAL, LARGE CAT, WOUNDED LIVESTOCK or KILLED LIVESTOCK, excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training. Please note:
 - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
 - The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request. e.g. *RUN OVER LARGE CAT CALLER HAS RUN OVER A LARGE GINGER CAT, IT IS ON THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, AND CARS MAYBE SWERVING AROUND IT.*
 - The manual reviews were conducted to identify the relevant data for your request.

Response