

Date: 16/08/2024

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013110/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013110/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/08/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could you provide information on the number of people bitten by Greater Manchester Police dogs for each year between 2018 and 2024?

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.

For GMP to provide the number of people bitten during your requested dates would require a substantial manual review of all the records logged under *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*. A review is needed to see which reports state if anyone has been bitten to be able to report accurately. For the time frame given, there have been over 5000 logs and so to review each one will exceed 18hrs to provide the data requested.

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 you are requesting will need revising to a much shorter time period. With

any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

Please note – Out of Control Dog statistics are available via the GMP website linked below.

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/police-forces/greater-manchester-police/areas/greater-manchester-force-content/sd/stats-and-data/out-of-control-dogs/>