

Date: 16th August 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013117/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/08/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could I request the following information:

- How many XL bully attacks have been recorded in England and Wales since 1 Feb 2024?***
- Could you also share how many XL bully attacks were recorded last year from Jan 23 to Dec 23?***

Please illustrate this in a table/excel sheet with the respective police force in the first column, the month, the number of recorded attacks for that area, and then the number of fatal attacks for that area.

E.g. Met police, February, 89 attacks, x no. of fatalities E.g. Met, March, x, x E.g. Met, April E.g. Met, May E.g. Met, June E.g. Met, July E.g. Met, August

So respectively could this data be from February-August?

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 in an easily retrievable format. We are unable to provide specific data for XL Bully attacks without manually reviewing all records to determine the breed of dog(s) involved. A search of GMPs records shows a total of 693 crimes since February 2024 and 1,535 crimes between 1st January 2023 and December 2023 within the Greater

Manchester area. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record would take this request to in excess of 185.6 hours to ascertain the data required.

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.

Please see the following link for data regarding out of control dogs within Greater Manchester.

[Out of control dogs | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](#)