

Date: 17/07/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012908/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012908/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/07/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The number of reported dog attacks (Home Office code 008/21 – owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales injuring any person or assistance dog) for the following dates:

- ***Feb 1 2020 – July 1 2020***
- ***Feb 1 2021 – July 1 2021***
- ***Feb 1 2022 – July 1 2022***
- ***Feb 1 2023 – July 1 2023***
- ***Feb 1 2024 – July 1 2024***
- ***Out of the total incidents for each year, please also provide the number that involved a suspected American Bully XL (otherwise known as 'XL Bully') and, separately again, the number that involved a confirmed American Bully XL.***
- ***For example, for Feb 1 2020 – July 1 2020, total of 20 incidents with 4 involving a suspected XL Bully and 2 involving a confirmed XL Bully.***

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.

To be able to provide information relating to part 2 of this request, GMP would need to complete a manual review of all the relevant offences to accurately know how many "XL Bully" dogs were involved

during each time period requested. Initial searches have provided approximately 5,000 results and as such to review each one will exceed the 18hrs permitted to provide a response.

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 frame. 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.

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 fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Response

Part one of this request is available online. Please use the following link to access the data.

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