

Date: 26/11/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013619/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013619/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. *From 1 February to 30 September 2024, how many suspected XL bully type dogs in your force area:***
 - a) *Have been seized and held in police kennels?***
 - b) *Have been destroyed by police?***
 - c) *Have been destroyed by a vet or other professional after being seized by police?***
 - d) *Have been seized and later returned to their owners?***
 - e) *Have died while in police kennels?***
- 2. *How many suspected XL bully type dogs are currently being held in police kennels?***

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.

GMP would not be able to provide the full information being requested above without conducting a full manual review of all the records that fall into the scope of this FOI request due to the way the information is held on our systems. For the time period above, there are 260 results, and each would need reviewing to provide the breakdowns required for parts of **1a, b, c, d and e**. At a conservative estimate of 5-10 minutes per each review, this request will take over 18hrs to respond to in full.

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 with a reduced volume of information required. 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.

Please see the responses below.

1. 260 suspected XL Bullies seized.
 - a) And held in police kennels - **See exemption above.**
 - b) 109 have been "destroyed". To know if this was by GMP or other, please **See exemption above.**
 - c) See response to 1b.
 - d) 119 have been released. To know if they have been returned to their owners, please **See exemption above.**
 - e) See exemption above.
2. 32.