



Date: 29/10/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013415/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013415/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *Numbers of Dangerous Dog Incidents - January 2021 to October 2024*
2. *Numbers of offences recorded under Home Office code 008/21 - January 2021 to October 2024*
3. *Numbers of Seized Dogs - January 2021 to October 2024*
4. *Numbers of Seized Dogs by Recorded Breed - January 2021 to October 2024*
5. *Numbers of Seized Dogs that were Destroyed - January 2021 to October 2024*
6. *Numbers of Seized Dogs that were Destroyed by Recorded Breed - January 2021 to October 2024*

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in questions 4 and 6 would involve a manual search of the individual records of each dangerous dog incident in order to establish the breed of dog.

A search of our records shows that there are over a thousand records that would have to be reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 80 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 greatly reduced 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 (see below information), I have supplied information, relative to your request, that was retrieved / available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The information requested in questions 1 and 2 is published on our website. <https://www.gmp.police.uk/police-forces/greater-manchester-police/areas/greater-manchester-force-content/sd/stats-and-data/out-of-control-dogs/>

The number of dogs seized and destroyed is provided below. This is subject to the following caveats:

Since 2021 we have used four different databases to record this information. The oldest was never transferred in full to the third version, the second was, but a lot of corruption of data. The four version that we are using is very good and so hopefully will be more reliable.

Dogs are seized for section 1 and section 3 offences DDA 1991, but on some occasions for both, so I have broken the figures down accordingly.

2021	Seized	Destroyed
Section 1	11	4
Section 1/3	6	2
Section 3	56	20
2022	Seized	Destroyed
Section 1	42	8

Section 1/3	16	10
Section 3	176	82
2023	Seized	Destroyed
Section 1	45	6
Section 1/3	18	2
Section 3	310	135
2024	Seized	Destroyed
Section 1	386	135
Section 1/3	50	18
Section 3	244	102