



Date: 24/09/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013162/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013162/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/08/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

For the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 (up to the present day), I request data on arrests made under or in relation to The Animal Welfare Act. Specifically, I am seeking the following details:

Total Number of Arrests: The total number of arrests made under or related to The Animal Welfare Act for each of the specified years.

Animal Involved: Please specify the type of animal(s) involved in each incident (e.g., dog, cat, horse, farm animals, etc.).

Type of Crime Committed: A detailed description of the crime committed in each case (e.g., neglect, mutilation, poisoning, illegal sale, theft, etc.).

Geographical Location: If possible, please provide the geographical location (e.g., city, county, or police jurisdiction) where the arrest was made.

Outcome of the Arrest: Please specify the outcome of the arrest, if available (e.g., charges filed, conviction, acquittal, ongoing investigation, etc.).

Additional Notes: Any other relevant information or context regarding the arrests, such as notable cases, if available.

Please provide the information in an Excel spreadsheet, with each year represented as a separate sheet, and clearly labeled columns for each data category.

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, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested relating to the type of animal involved would involve a manual search of all custody records of those arrested on suspicion of offences under the Animal Welfare Act.

A search of our custody records shows that there are 94 such arrest records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 20 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 31 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