

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013296/P

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Thursday, 26 September 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013296/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/09/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide yearly figures for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 along with monthly figures for all of 2023 and for 2024 from January 1st to 31st August for each of the following questions:

- 1. The number of crimes recorded for Home Office code 111/17/N: Possession of Pitbull type terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated type dog contrary to Section 1(2) of Dangerous Dogs act*
- 2. The number of crimes recorded for Home Office code 8N/821: Owner or Person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog.*

NOTES: If your crime recording systems have been updated or changed since 2019 meaning you cannot provide data for all the years requested then please provide as many years' data as possible.

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 that some of the information requested is held by GMP.

Part 1 – We don't have an offence matching *111/17/N: Possession of Pitbull type terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated type dog contrary to Section 1(2) of Dangerous Dogs act* that we could find. We record offences according to [the Crime Recording Rules](#).

Part 2 – I am not required to supply it because exemptions apply.

For data from August 2019 to June 2024

The exemption applicable to the information is **Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means**. This is because the information is already freely available at:

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

Home Office has also published Police recorded crime and outcomes here –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>.

For data from July 2024 to August 2024

The information requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 22(1)(a) – Information intended for future publication**.

As the exemption used is a qualified exemption a public interest test (PIT) needs to be applied.

Public Interest test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds. Therefore, the stance at this time is that the

requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.