

Date: 4th April 2024
Our ref: FOI/25/014400/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

How much the force has spent on kennelling banned breeds or the XL Bully since the ban came in. Please provide a monthly breakdown of the costs since February 2024 up to and including February 2025.

How much more has the force spent on staffing the dog section of the force since the ban came in, and how many staff did this budget pay for.

Has the force received more funding for kennels/staffing the XL Bully Ban, or has this been redirected from other areas of policing.

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP do not record the costs separately of kennelling banned breeds or XL Bullies. To provide a response would require manually reviewing all dogs' seizures to determine if they fit into the category or banned breed/XL Bully and then manually calculating the costs per dog. For example, for an 8 month period in 2024 808 dogs were seized all of which would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to provide the requested information.

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 that you are requesting will need to be reduced. For example, an amendment in the questions asked e.g. total kennelling costs. 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