

Date: 24/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013924/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013924/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to you under the provisions of the Freedom Information Act to request specific data related to dog attacks recorded by your force.

- 1. How many dog attacks were reported to your force throughout the whole of 2023? If possible, can this data be split by month? If not, an overall annual total is fine.***
- 2. How many dog attacks were reported to your force throughout the whole of 2024? Again, a monthly breakdown would be nice but is not a dealbreaker.***
- 3. For both 2023 and 2024, can you list the top 5 dogs involved in reported dog attacks, and – if possible – note how many reports related to these dogs.***

I really appreciate you taking the time to look at this request for me.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would not be able to complete question 3 of this request without carrying out a substantial manual review of all the recorded logs that relate to this request. For 2023 and 2024 there have been over 3000 out of control dog incidents logged and due to the way in which GMP's system records the information for Q3 this would be the only way to identify the top 5 dog breeds. At a conservative

estimate of 5 minutes per each review it would take approximately 250 hrs to locate and retrieve the data requested.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the removal of question 3. 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.

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.

1. See exemption below.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 1 is exempt under **section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The response to this request is available online. Please follow the links below.

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

2. See table below.

Month	Crime Count
January	114
February	104
March	131
April	124
May	160
June	159
July	180
August	159
September	126
October	149
November	112
December	123