

Date: 30th April 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014690/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014690/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of incidents involving dangerously out of control dogs reported to Greater Manchester Police in each of the last 10 years.***
- 2. A breakdown of these incidents by year, including the nature of the incident (e.g., attacks on people, attacks on other animals, etc.).***
- 3. The outcomes of these incidents (e.g., prosecutions, warnings, no further action, etc.).***
- 4. Any available demographic information on the owners of the dogs involved in these incidents.***

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.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes recorded under HO offence 008/21 'owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog', with a created date between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2024, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

- Offender person data has been provided, where applicable.
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.
- A crime outcome of 'Missing Value' means that the investigation is ongoing and an outcome has not yet been applied.
- Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
 - Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
 - The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.
- We are aware of a system issue affecting suspect outcomes for migrated crimes with more than one suspect attached. This issue means that the outcome shown for some suspects attached to migrated crimes may be incorrect.
- There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime. For this reason, the number of suspects is not the same as the number of crimes. Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period.
- Suspects have been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted.
- Suspect may not necessarily be the dog owner, but the person in control of the dog at the time of the offence.

Year	Total
2015	912
2016	987
2017	1,076
2018	893
2019	837
2020	818
2021	922
2022	1,258
2023	1,534
2024	1,631

Due to low numbers returned for the different breakdowns, the information has been merged together as by providing all this information split by year as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By merging this data it can be provided in its entirety

Outcome	Total
Caution - Adults	181
Caution - Adults Alternative Offence	3
Caution - Youths	1
Charged/Summonsed	523
Charged/Summonsed Alternative Offence	14
Community Resolution	820

Diversionary, Educational, Intervention complete. Further action not in public interest.	15
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.	1,187
Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police)	116
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available	4,062
Missing Value	170
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.	2,900
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.	1,161
Named Suspect Identified; Prosecution not in the public interest	336
Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)	3
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility	1
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	2
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence	2
Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.	2

Suspect Gender	Total
Female	2,978
Male	2,858
Missing Value	2,582
Unknown	110
Blank	2,971

Suspect Ethnicity	Total
Asian - Any Other Asian Background	26
Asian - Indian	11
Asian - Pakistani	47
Black - African	20
Black - Any Other Black Background	20
Black - Caribbean	18
Mixed - Any Other Mixed Background	6
Mixed - White and Asian	5
Mixed - White and Black African	3
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	27
Not Provided/Not Stated	3,031
Other - Any Other Ethnic Group	15
Other - Chinese	2
Unknown	5
White - Any Other White Background	47
White - British	1,918
White - Irish	24
Blanks	6,274

Suspect Age Bracket	Total
0 -10	9
11 – 15	32
16 – 20	207
21 – 25	434
26 – 30	591
31 – 35	754
36 – 40	715
41 – 45	687
46 – 50	645
51 – 55	562
56 – 60	449
61 – 65	265
66 – 70	173
71 – 75	118
76 – 80	65
81 – 85	31
86 – 90	7
91 - 95	4
Blanks	5,751