

Date: 16/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015359/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015359/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide data from 1 January 2023 to the present date:

- 1. The number of dogs seized by Greater Manchester Police following an attack on a person under the age of 16.***
- 2. Of these dogs, how many were identified as pit bull type dogs.***
- 3. Of the pit bull type dogs seized after attacking a person under 16, how many were destroyed.***
- 4. For those dogs destroyed, does GMP hold a record of whether ashes were returned to their owners? If so, please provide the number.***

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

In relation to question 1, a manual review would be required to be able to answer this part of the request. Due to how the data for the seizure of dogs is held, we are not able to easily identify the age of victim as our systems are not programmed for this type of extraction for this type of data. Instead, each record would need to be checked to be able to obtain this information. At the same time, questions 2 and 3 cannot be completed unless this manual review is carried out. Since January 2023 we have seized more than 1700 dogs. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per each review, it would take approximately 141hrs to complete this FOI.

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 a reduced time frame or to revise the request to ask for the number of dogs seized for section 1 and section 1/3 DDA 1991 since January 2023 and the numbers destroyed. However, 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.