

Date: 13th April 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016594/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016594/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Freedom of Information Request - XL Bully Type Identification Training

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to training provided to officers involved in Dangerous Dogs Act breed type identification.

Specifically, I am interested in training relating to XL Bully type identification.

Please provide the following information, as held by your force:

- An overview of how XL Bully type identification is covered in training provided to Dog Legislation Officers or other relevant officers***
- Any curriculum outlines, learning objectives, or summary documents relating to this training***
- Details of any training delivered to existing officers following the XL Bully prohibition (e.g. format, duration, and topics covered)***
- Any non-operational guidance documents, briefing notes, or materials relating to XL Bully conformation standards that can be disclosed***

I am not seeking sensitive operational tactics or information that would prejudice law enforcement. If any material is considered exempt, I would be grateful if you could provide redacted versions or summary information where possible.

For context, this request relates to training that underpins breed type identification decisions with significant legal and welfare implications. There is a strong public interest in transparency regarding the standards used in these assessments.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

An overview of how XL Bully type identification is covered in training provided to Dog Legislation Officers or other relevant officers

GMP Officers go out of force and attend a dog legislation officer course. GMP offer no in house DLO training. Student Officers are delivered an input regarding the dangerous dogs act and a small portion covers Section 1 DDA.

Any curriculum outlines, learning objectives, or summary documents relating to this training

As the courses are out of force, GMP do not prepare the lessons. No information held.

Details of any training delivered to existing officers following the XL Bully prohibition (e.g. format, duration, and topics covered)

Student Officers are delivered an input regarding the dangerous dog act, and a small portion covers Section 1 DDA.

Any non-operational guidance documents, briefing notes, or materials relating to XL Bully conformation standards that can be disclosed

The guidance is available in the public domain. Please see the below links:

[XL Bully breed guidance confirmed | College of Policing](#)

[Dangerous Dogs Act 1991](#)

[XL Bully conformation standard - GOV.UK](#)