

Date: 27/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016626/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016626/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding dogs seized under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

This request relates specifically to dogs seized on suspicion of being a prohibited type, not to those involved in offences under Section 3.

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025, or the most recent 5-year period available.

If providing 5 years of data would exceed the cost limit, please provide the same information for the most recent 3-year period instead.

1. Seizures and Outcomes

a) The total number of dogs seized under Section 1

b) Of those seized, the number:

- i - Disclaimed by the owner***
- ii - Returned to the owner as not being of a prohibited type***
- iii - Subject to a Contingent Destruction Order and added to the Index of Exempted Dogs***
- iv - Ordered to be euthanised by the court***

2. Timeframes

a) The average time between seizure and formal assessment/typing decision

b) The average time between seizure and final outcome (e.g. return, exemption, or destruction)

c) Where available, the average time between seizure and return for dogs found not to be of a prohibited type

3. Kennelling and Costs

- a) The average cost per dog per day for kennelling**
- b) The average length of stay in kennels for dogs seized under Section 1**
- c) If available, the total annual cost of kennelling for Section 1 dogs**

4. Additional Context (if recorded)

- a) Where recorded, the number of Section 1 seized dogs with a prior recorded incident of aggression towards a person**

5. Clarification

If it is not possible to separate Section 1 data from other Dangerous Dogs Act data, please provide the closest available dataset and explain any limitations.

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

GMP would be unable to provide a response to this FOI in full without carrying out a manual review for parts 1, 2, 3b and question 4.

The information in some or all of these questions are not recorded in a central location that allows for any filters to be applied for easy extraction. The breakdowns requested in question 1 would require a full manual review due to the above statement on how the data is recorded and stored, question 2 will require a full review manually as we do not record averages or if any dogs are returned centrally. Question 3b is not held in any other location than within the actual file of each entry and so this part of question 3 requires a full review. Question 4 will also result in a trawl through all the entries to locate and extract the number of Section 1 seized dogs with a prior recorded incident of aggression towards a person. For all of the above, over 5000 entries will be requiring an intense examination of each file and this would most certainly exceed 18hrs.

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 significantly reduced time frame and a reduction in the level of data required, using the fact that there is no central location for some data as a bench mark for any revised FOI.

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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.