

Date: 02/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016158/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016158/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***For each calendar year from 2019 to 2025, please provide the following information.
If information is not held by calendar year, please supply figures by financial year instead.***

1. Dogs seized by police

***For the avoidance of doubt, please exclude stray dogs handled on behalf of local authorities.
Please include only dogs seized by the police in connection with criminal investigations,
public-safety incidents, or powers under the Dangerous Dogs Act.***

1a. The number of dogs seized by the force.

1b. If recorded in an extractable format, the number of dogs seized, broken down by the reason for seizure (e.g., Dangerous Dogs Act, owner arrested, welfare grounds, other policing powers).

If this is not recorded in a structured form, please instead state so".

1c. The number of dogs seized, split by suspected breed

1d. The number of seized dogs that were destroyed.

1e. . If recorded in an extractable format, the number of seized dogs that were destroyed split by suspected breed.

2. Kennelling

2a. The total annual expenditure by the force on kennelling dogs seized by police (as defined above) for each year.

If kennelling costs are not separately coded or cannot be isolated from wider animal-handling or contract costs, please state this

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

Upon reviewing this FOI, it has become evident due to how we record the information, that questions 1b – 1e cannot be provided without carrying out a full manual review of all the seized dogs records. The reasons for seizure, the breed and the number of dogs destroyed are not recorded in a central location for easy extraction. This information is contained in each file, and a review would consist of over 2000 records to trawl through to gather this data. As such this FOI for questions 1 – 1e alone would take in the region of 166hrs to respond.

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 to request data for question 1 and 2 only without the breakdowns in 1b,c, d and e. 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.