

Date: 30/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016234/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016234/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

For the purposes of clarity, "livestock worrying" should be interpreted as incidents involving dogs chasing, attacking, injuring, or killing livestock, as recorded by your force.

Question 1

From 1 January 2010 to the present date, please provide the number of recorded incidents or reports of livestock worrying within your force area.

Question 2

From 1 January 2010 to the present date, please provide the number of recorded incidents in which a dog was shot, euthanised, or otherwise dispatched by police officers at the scene, or by another, where this was recorded as being in connection with:

***livestock worrying, and/or
dogs being dangerously out of control.***

Question 3

From 1 January 2010 to the present date, please provide the number of recorded incidents or reports in which the use of an electronic training device (including electronic collars) on a dog, was reported to the police as being used in an abusive, inappropriate, or welfare-related context, as recorded by your force.

Please use

Livestock worrying in England and Wales , is an offence under:

Dogs (protection of livestock) act 1953

There has also recently been a 2025 amendment to the legislation.

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

For GMP to be able to provide a response to answer the number of recorded incidents in which a dog was shot, euthanised, or otherwise dispatched by police officers at the scene, or by another, where this was recorded as being in connection with: dogs being dangerously out of control would require a substantial manual review of each incident to see how many related to this part of question 2. Dogs are dispatched by our firearms officers when dangerously out of control, but this data is not recorded at present other than showing on the record as a dog being destroyed or deceased, but not by what means. This is where the review would look to see what information is held that matches the specifics of question 2. For 2024 and 2025 combined, there are almost 600 records to review, This does not include the ones for other offences including the remaining years on this FOI time frame, and this would most certainly exceed 18hrs for these 2 years alone.

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. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. Under the legislation provided, no notifiable offences have been found. GMP do not hold any data for non-notifiable offences. Please see more details on Crime Recording Rules: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>
2. Zero in connection to livestock worrying. Also see exemption.