

Date: 30/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016267/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016267/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Can you please provide a yearly breakdown (for 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025) on the figures for Section 1 and 3 of the DDA 1991 which would cover suspected prohibited types/breeds of dogs seized.***
- 2. For each of the last 5 calendar years including up to the date of this request, on how many occasions has your force used the Interim Exemption Scheme for dogs assessed as being a banned breed or type?***
- 3. How many dogs are currently in kennels as a result of being seized as a banned breed or type by your force?***
- 4. For dogs that are currently in kennels as a result of being seized as a banned breed or type by your force, what is the average length of stay in kennels, in days? Are you able to say what the shortest and longest durations are?***
- 5. For each of the last 5 calendar years including up to the date of this request, how many times has your force been required to use a kenneling facility outside of your normal contracted kennels due to capacity issues?***
- 6. Are you able to estimate at what percentage of kennel capacity your force is currently operating in regard to dogs housed in contracted kennels due to being assessed as being a banned breed?***

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

Question 5 cannot be provided without the need for a manual review of all the cases logged in the last 5 years. This is because this information is not recorded in a way that allows for easy extraction. From time to time GMP may use a slight alternative method such as a local charity for any sudden high increases of seizures, however we would still only record this on the file for each one and so we would need to trawl through each seizure to see how the dog was housed. In 2024 alone, GMP seized over 1000 dogs, and to review these as well as the remaining 4 years requested would take this FOI over the 18hrs threshold.

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 the removal of question 5. 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.

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 exceed (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.

Please find the below table for Q1, which shows the number of dogs seized for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

- Section 1 is for suspected prohibited types/breeds of dogs seized.
- Section 1 and 3 is mainly for suspected prohibited types/breeds of dogs and also included another offence which in the main is section 3 DDA 1991 but can also include animal welfare offences.
- Finally, dogs seized following a section 3 offence DDA 1991.
- Please note DLO's where only trained to identify the XL Bully from January 2024 and the ban on this type of dog came in on the 1/02/24.

Question 1.

Offence	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sec 1 (only)	142	427	42	32	16	16	33
Sec 1 Plus other offence like Sec 3 or AWA	96	35	22	26	6	11	32
Sec 3	270	319	304	168	57	52	65

Question 2.

GMP only began to use the Interim Exemption scheme at the beginning of 2025. GMP have used it seven times in 2025 and zero so far for 2026.

Question 3.

There are currently 30 dogs housed in kennels, of which 22 confirmed prohibited under section 1 DDA 1991 and 8 puppies not yet assessed.

Question 4.

GMP do not hold in averages the time spent in kennels. This would require creating data following a manual review of all the previously housed dogs which we are not obliged to do under the FOIA. I can advise the longest dog held in our kennels currently dates to 2024.

Question 5.

See exemption above.

Question 6.

80% Capacity.