

Date: 22nd July 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017197/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

- 1. The count of offences of "animal-related" crime you recorded on your system in 2025/26. Please see below for our exact definition of "animal-related" crime.***
- 2. Total count of offences of "animal-related" crime you recorded on your system in 2025/26, by offence code.***
- 3. Total count of offences of "animal-related" crime you recorded in 2025/26, by outcome.***
- 4. Total number of incidents recorded as "Animals/wildlife" in 2025/26.***
- 5. The total number of calls with a call type 'animal', 'wildlife' or 'animal/wildlife' within STORM (if STORM is used) in 2025/26.***
- 6. Any known reason for why recorded reports might be lower than true volume of incidents.***

Please provide this data for the 2025/26 financial year (date range 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026).

For the purposes of this request, we define "animal-related crime" as any incident which is logged against any of the following pieces of legislation:

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963; Animal Health Act 1981; Animal Welfare Act 2006; Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; Deer Act 1991 Sec 1, 2, 3; Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953; Game Act 1831 Sec 30; Hunting Act 2004 Sec 1, 3(1), 5; Night Poaching Act 1828 Sec 1; Pet Abduction Act 2024 Sec 1 and 2; Poaching Prevention Act 1862 Sec 2; Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975; Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Quota Measures) Order 1988; Sea Fishing (Prohibition on Removal of Shark Fins) Order 2007 Sec 4,5,12; Sexual Offences Act 2003 Sec 69(1)(3) and Sec 69(2)(3); The Control of Dogs Order 1992; Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966; Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2007; Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

In relation to question 5, to determine the number of calls relating to animals would require each call to be listened to in full. This is because not every call results in an incident and until an incident is recorded, we are unable to determine the nature of the call. Between April 2025 and March 2026, GMP received 1,523,850 calls, all of which would need to be listened to determine the nature of the call. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to provide the requested information.

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.

Section 16(1) – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce question 5 in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit.

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.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026 where the HO 5-digit code is '099/99', '097/01', '097/02', '097/03', '097/04', '097/05', '008/21', '049/03', '098/91', '098/92', '098/95', '099/22', '098/63', '098/64', '088/03' or '088/04' and the crime falls under the listed legislation (Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963; Animal Health Act 1981; Animal Welfare Act 2006; Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; Deer Act 1991 Sec 1, 2, 3; Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953; Game Act 1831 Sec 30; Hunting Act 2004 Sec 1, 3(1), 5; Night Poaching Act 1828 Sec 1; Pet Abduction Act 2024 Sec 1 and 2; Poaching Prevention Act 1862 Sec 2; Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975; Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Quota Measures) Order 1988; Sea Fishing (Prohibition on Removal of Shark Fins) Order 2007 Sec 4,5,12; Sexual Offences Act 2003 Sec 69(1)(3) and Sec 69(2)(3); The Control of Dogs Order 1992; Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966; Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2007; Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981), excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

A crime outcome of 'Missing Value' means that the investigation is ongoing and an outcome has not yet been applied.

This data contains incidents with a created date between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026 where the closing code is D17 (animal problems), excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training.

Question 1 and 2

Crime Latest Classification : HO Offence Level	Count
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog	1648
Abduction of pet dog/cat	42
Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal	157
Intercourse with an animal by a male	3
Contravening the law relating to the regulation and control of fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels, the protection and conservation of fisheries for such fish, the times of fishing for the selling such fish b. Sec 27 (instrument other than rod and line) Secs 4, 5	1
Offences relating to animal fights	1
Fish / take fish by other than licensable means in circumstances where fish / taking may or may not be authorised, or possess unlicensed instrument with intent to fish / take fish or without a S27A authority	1
Total	1,853

Question 3

Outcome	Count
Charged/Summoned	57
Charged/Summoned Alternative Offence	1
Caution - Adults	70
Community Resolution	226
Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police)	10
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.	102
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.	416
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.	340
Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.	1
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available	535
Named Suspect Identified; Prosecution not in the public interest	44
Diversionsary, Educational, Intervention complete. Further action not in public interest.	3
Missing Value	48

Total	1,853
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Question 4

1,874 incidents with the closing code D17 (animal problems). This is the only incident code that specifically relates to animals.

Question 5 – Exempt, please see above.

Question 6

If the incident/crime is not recorded correctly, it may be missed in this search.