



Date: 03/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016298/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016298/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to kindly request annual totals from 2010-2025 for the following information and statistics:

1. *The number of dog bites reported*
2. *The number of Level 3 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Greater Manchester police force area*
3. *The number of Level 4 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Greater Manchester police force area*
4. *The number of Level 5 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Greater Manchester police force area*
5. *The number of deaths occurring from dog bites within Greater Manchester police force area*
6. *The breeds of the offending dogs from the total in request 1 if reported*
7. *How many dogs were seized following a dog bite incident*

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. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes recorded under Home Office Offence Code 008/21 – “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” to see what the breed of the dog and the severity of injury was. These are not searchable fields on our crime recording system, so a manual review would be the only way to establish this information.

A search of crime records shows that there are 7,786 crimes that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 649 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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