

Date: 15/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016660/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016660/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am seeking recorded information relating to dogs seized and/or involved in attack incidents within your force area.

Scope of request

Please provide the following information for the latest 12-month period for which data is available.

Where exact classifications are not held, please provide the closest available recorded categories. I am requesting aggregated data only and do not require case-level information.

1. Total numbers

The total number of dogs that were:

- (a) Seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (including on suspicion of being a prohibited type), and/or***
- (b) Recorded as involved in a dog attack incident***

2. Outcomes

Of the dogs identified above, please provide the number that were:

- (a) Returned to their owner***
- (b) Rehomed***
- (c) Euthanised/destroyed***
- (d) Still in police or contracted kennels at the time of the most recent available data***

3. Legal or investigative outcome (returned dogs)

For dogs that were returned to their owner, please provide a breakdown, where recorded, by the outcome of the associated case:

- (a) Cases resulting in a charge and conviction***

- (b) Cases resulting in a charge but no conviction (including acquittals or discontinued cases)*
- (c) Cases resulting in no charges being brought*
- (d) Cases under investigation or subject to ongoing proceedings at the time the dog was returned*

If this exact breakdown is not held, please provide any recorded outcome categories used.

4. Prohibited breeds

Of the dogs seized as suspected prohibited types, please provide:

- (a) The number confirmed as a prohibited type*
- (b) The number subsequently returned to their owner*

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

To provide a response to this request in full, would require a review manually for question 3 of this FOI. There have been 187 dogs returned to their owners in the last 12 month period and due to how we record information asked for in question 3 a review would be the only method to extract this part of the request. Each case would have to be trawled through to obtain any crime/incident ref and then search that file to answer your questions. At a conservative rate of 10 minutes for each this part of the request would far exceed 18hrs.

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 3. 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 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.

Question 1.

There have been 503 dogs seized over the last 12 month period for incidents of Section 1 and Section 3 offences.

Question 2.

- a) 187
- b) 30
- c) 216
- d) 45

Please note – GMP do utilise other sources of disposal which accounts for the missing 25 figures.

Question 3.

See Exemption above

Question 4.

- a) 181
- b) 24