Information Management & Data Directorate (IMDD)
Information Access Unit

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Monday, 23 November 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/018120/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/018120/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/11/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information for your force.
For questions 1–4, please report each period separately, with all dates inclusive.

- *1 January to 31 December 2023*
- *1 January to 31 December 2024*
- *1 January to 31 December 2025*
- *1 January to 31 October 2026*

The scope is reported attacks in which one or more dogs injured or killed a pet dog or an assistance dog, regardless of breed and whether or not a person was injured. Include reports where human injury status is unknown or unrecorded. Use the categories and searchable records your force already holds.

1. Counts

For each period, please provide separate totals for police incident reports and recorded offences within scope. For offences, please give the offence codes and descriptions used, where readily available.

2. Breakdowns

For each of those totals and periods, please provide the following as three separate breakdowns where the information can be identified. Separate tables are fine.

- ***Human injury status:*** *Person injured, explicitly recorded that no person was injured, and unknown or unrecorded. If an absence of a human injury marker cannot be distinguished from missing information, please explain how it is treated.*
- ***Type of dog harmed:*** *Pet dog, assistance dog, and unknown or unrecorded where identifiable. Please flag any overlap.*
- ***Harm to the dog:*** *Recorded serious non-fatal injury, death (including euthanasia attributed to the attack where recorded), other injury, and unknown or unrecorded where identifiable. Please use your force's existing severity classification and give its definition*

if held. If an attack involved several dogs with different outcomes, please say how it was counted.

3. Outcomes

For each period, please provide aggregate counts of the latest recorded outcomes or disposals for the reports and offences in question 1, where these can be linked. Please state the extraction date and use your force's recorded categories. These may include referral to a local authority, no further action, an out-of-court disposal, charge or summons, and cases still open, where held. Please identify whether each table counts incidents, offences or individual outcomes and whether more than one outcome can be counted per case.

4. Counting method

Please identify the source systems or datasets, the date field used to allocate records to periods, the codes, fields or search terms used to identify dog-on-dog attacks, and how duplicate reports or multiple offences from one incident are treated. Please flag any known changes in recording practice or systems during the requested periods, and whether the incident and offence data can be linked.

Please distinguish between a confirmed zero, information not held, cases or categories that cannot be separately identified, and figures withheld or suppressed.

5. Current guidance

Please provide copies of or links to the current policies, procedures, guidance or checklists your force holds and uses for serious dog-on-dog attacks involving pet or assistance dogs, including where no person is injured.

Result of Searches

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

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

Our system does not feature automated tools to extract Part 2 data. Consequently, retrieving the requested information will require a manual review of our records. From initial searches carried out on Home Office code 008/21 - Owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether in a public place or not) injuring any person or assistance dog, a total of 6,227 records would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours 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.

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. We can provide stats on crime records and outcomes for 008/21 - Owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether in a public place or not) injuring any person or assistance dog. However, we cannot provide further breakdown data without manual review.

Part 5 – this is available online - https://www.gmp.police.uk/foi-ai/greater-manchester-police/policies/dog-related-incidents-policy-and-procedure/

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.