Date: 30/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017741/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017741/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for each calendar year 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025:

1. The number of incidents in which an officer discharged a Taser/CED at an animal.

2. For each incident, where electronically recorded, please provide:
- the type/species of animal involved;
- for dogs, the breed/type if recorded;
- whether the animal was injured or killed;
- any brief incident description or summary held electronically, for example whether the animal was attacking a person, another animal, a police officer, or was loose in a road/public place.

By "discharged", I mean fired at or directly applied to the animal, rather than merely drawn, aimed or red-dotted.

If providing any of the incident-level details above would require manual review and engage Section 12, please omit those elements and provide the annual totals and any other information that can be retrieved electronically within the cost limit.

If your system only records a broader category such as "animal", please provide the information in the form in which it is held.

Result of Searches
GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

To determine whether information is held for this request, GMP would need to conduct a manual review of incident records. This is because incidents involving the discharge of a Taser/CED at an animal are not recorded under a specific searchable category within our systems. While incidents involving Taser use may be recorded, the systems do not provide a means to readily identify whether the subject was an animal, the species involved, whether a dog breed was recorded, or whether the animal was injured or killed. Establishing whether this information is held would therefore require individual incident records to be examined and assessed on a case-by-case basis to identify any relevant incidents and determine whether the specific details requested were electronically recorded. As a result, locating, retrieving and extracting the information would necessitate a substantial manual review of incident records.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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 a reduced time frame, and where possible the specific code used for these types of incidents. 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.