

Date: 14/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017560/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017560/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide the following information concerning dogs seized by Greater Manchester Police under section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, for the most recent 5 complete calendar years for which data is available, preferably broken down by year.

Where possible, please distinguish section 3 cases from dogs seized under other provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Kennelling locations

1. The names and/or locations of the kennelling facilities currently used by GMP for dogs seized under section 3.

If disclosure of the precise location of a particular facility would create a security or safety concern, please provide the name of the contractor/company and the general geographical area instead.

Length of time in kennels

2. The number of section 3 dogs seized in each year.

3. For those dogs, please provide:

- average length of time spent in kennels;***
- median length of time spent in kennels;***
- shortest period;***
- longest period.***

4. If available, please provide the number of dogs falling into the following periods:

- 0–7 days
- 8–14 days
- 15–30 days
- 31–60 days
- 61–90 days
- 91–180 days
- over 180 days.

Outcomes

5. For each year, how many section 3 dogs:

- were returned to their owner;
- remained in kennels pending prosecution/court proceedings;
- were subject to a destruction order;
- were rehomed or otherwise transferred;
- had the investigation concluded with no further action/no charge.

6. Where a dog was returned to its owner, please provide the average and median number of days between seizure and return, if held.

Kennelling costs

- 7. Does GMP initially meet the cost of kennelling dogs seized under section 3?**
- 8. What was the total amount spent by GMP on kennelling section 3 dogs in each year?**
- 9. What was the average daily cost per dog?**
- 10. Does GMP seek to recover kennelling costs from owners while an investigation is ongoing**

11. If so:

- what statutory/legal authority is relied upon;
- how much has GMP recovered from owners in each year;
- how many owners were charged/required to pay;
- what happens to the costs where no charge is brought, the case is discontinued, or the defendant is acquitted.

12. Please provide any current GMP policy, procedure, guidance or written policy concerning the recovery of kennelling costs from owners of dogs seized under section 3.

Welfare and health issues

13. Please provide the number of dogs seized under section 3 for which GMP or its contracted kennelling provider recorded a welfare or health issue during kennelling, broken down where possible into categories such as:

- anxiety/stress;
- weight loss;
- weight gain;
- illness;
- injury;
- behavioural deterioration;
- refusal to eat;
- other significant welfare concerns.

14. Please provide the number of dogs requiring veterinary treatment while kennelled and the total/average veterinary expenditure, if recorded.

15. Please provide the number of dogs that died while in police/contracted kennelling, if any.

16. Please provide any recorded complaints made by owners concerning the welfare or treatment of section 3 dogs while kennelled, including the number of complaints and their broad outcomes.

Welfare monitoring and length of stay

17. Please provide any GMP policy, contract specification or guidance setting out:

- **welfare checks required for seized dogs;**
- **frequency of veterinary assessments;**
- **exercise requirements;**
- **feeding requirements;**
- **behavioural monitoring;**
- **procedures for dogs showing signs of anxiety or other welfare problems.**

18. Please provide any GMP guidance or policy concerning the circumstances in which a section 3 dog may be released from kennelling before the conclusion of criminal proceedings, including any alternative arrangements or control measures.

Investigative process

19. Please provide any current GMP policy or guidance concerning the process followed after a section 3 dog is seized, including:

- **veterinary examination;**
- **behavioural/temperament assessment;**
- **decision-making concerning continued kennelling;**
- **referral to the CPS;**
- **release of dogs where prosecution is not pursued.**

20. Please provide any available statistics showing the average time from:

- **seizure to veterinary examination;**
- **seizure to behavioural assessment;**
- **seizure to charging decision;**
- **seizure to return of the dog.**

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

GMP would be unable to respond to questions 3, 4 and 6 without carrying out a review manually of each individual record due to how the information is recorded within our systems.

The average times are not recorded anywhere on the system in an extractable way and so each file would have to be manually assessed to allow the average times to be calculated. The number of section 3 dogs seized in each year passes 1,300 records that will fall into this review and so at a conservative rate of a minimum of 5 minutes to review each one, this FOI would take in the region of 108 to comply with for these question alone.

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 the removal of questions

3, 4 and 6, a reduction in the volume of request information/questions and a possible reduction in your timeframe. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

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 2.

2022 - 199

2023 – 325

2024 – 309

2025 – 265

2026 So far – 208