



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0736

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/08/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0736

On 18/07/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1.

- a) For the period from 1 July 2021 to 1 July 2022, how many reports were received of an owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales, injuring any person or assistance dog?
- b) For the period from 1 July 2021 to 1 July 2022, how many of the above reports received were identified to be an American XL Bully?
- c) For the period from 1 July 2021 to 1 July 2022, how many dogs have been detained under the Dangerous Dogs Act?
- d) For the period from 1 July 2021 to 1 July 2022, how many dogs have been destroyed under the Dangerous Dogs Act?

2.

- a) For the period from 1 July 2022 to 1 July 2023, how many reports were received of an owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales, injuring any person or assistance dog?
- b) For the period from 1 July 2022 to 1 July 2023, how many of the above reports received were identified to be an American XL Bully?
- c) For the period from 1 July 2022 to 1 July 2023, how many dogs have been detained under the Dangerous Dogs Act?
- d) For the period from 1 July 2022 to 1 July 2023, how many dogs have been destroyed under the Dangerous Dogs Act?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

For ease of reference, I have numbered and lettered the points of your request.

For questions 1a & b and 2a & b, a search of the Crime Recording System has been conducted to identify all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/07/2021 and 30/06/2022 and, separately, 01/07/2022 and 30/06/2023 where the offence of "Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog" has been recorded. The results were then manually reviewed to identify records where the dog breed has been recorded as "American XL Bully", "American Bully" or "XL Bully". Please note that the breed of "American Bulldog" has not been included in the results.

For questions 1c & d and 2c & d, the information requested is recorded and held within a secondary recording system from which it can be electronically extracted.

Please see the table below for the results of the required searches.

Question set	Year		Total
	2021/22	2022/23	
a) Total Records	212	343	555
b) Total Records - breed specified	1	1	2
c) Detained - all breeds	4	2	6
d) Destroyed - all breeds	12	10	22

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary