



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0905

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 09/10/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0905

On 12/09/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Can I request the following information under an FOI request?

What is the number of incidents reported as 'dog attack' or 'out of control dog' in Gloucestershire over the period 2018 - 2023?

What is the number of incidents reported as 'dog attack', or 'out of control dog' that involve the specific breed 'American bully XL'

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

Unfortunately, it's not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested.

A search has been conducted of the incident recording system for incidents related to your request between the dates of 01/01/2018 – 12/09/2023.

Whilst there is a tag of 'DOG ATT', this has only been available since 01/04/2019.

The search results have been filtered for any incidents where the 'Dog Att' tag has been applied. This has resulted in over 666 incidents.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited. As such, a manual review and cross reference of records will be required in order to determine if relevant information is held, which may become subject to the Section 12 cost refusal.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

When an individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

When an individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Under Section 16, duty to assist, a search of the crime recording system can be conducted for records where the offence of '008/21 – Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring an person or assistance dog' is recorded. Once the results have been received we can conduct an electronic search for the breed.

If this would still assist, please resubmit your request to foi@gloucestershire.police.uk.

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