



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_23_1028

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 14/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1028

On 19/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to you under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to request specific data related to dog attacks recorded by your force.

1. Could you kindly confirm whether your force records dog attacks, as per section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act (DDA), as distinct offences in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS)?
2. I would appreciate if you could provide a month-by-month breakdown of the number of attacks recorded from January 1, 2020, to the present date. The nearest month end data would be acceptable.
3. In the aftermath of these recorded attacks, could you provide information on the number of dogs that were seized and subsequently assessed?
4. Furthermore, I am interested in knowing the number of dogs that were destroyed as a result of an attack. If possible, could you differentiate between those destroyed at the scene and those destroyed in kennels?
5. Could you confirm how many of the dogs that were destroyed were done so at the discretion of their owners?
6. I would also like to inquire whether your force records the breed, sex, and age of the dogs reported or seized. If so, could you please provide this information?
7. Lastly, does your force record whether the dog was an intact male or a spayed female? If this information is available, I would be grateful if you could share it.

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.

1. I can confirm that the Constabulary records Crimes as per the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes.
2. A Search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2020 to 30/09/2023 whereby the offence recorded was 8/21 – 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 any person or assistance dog. The results are as follows:

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Jan	11	20	12	28	71
Feb	11	11	14	28	64
Mar	10	16	29	30	85
Apr	13	18	19	32	82
May	22	13	19	31	85
Jun	24	23	21	49	117
Jul	20	18	19	19	76
Aug	29	10	33	37	109
Sep	23	25	32	28	108
Oct	16	21	22		59
Nov	10	13	21		44
Dec	17	11	17		45
Total	206	199	258	282	945

3. I can confirm that 24 dogs were seized subsequent to attacks.
4. Of these 4 were destroyed in kennels, none at scene.
5. All 4 were destroyed at the discretion of the owners.
6. & 7. I can confirm that the only information recorded relating to these dogs is the breed. Details of the breeds of dog seized are as follows:

4 x Staffordshire Bull Terrier
1 x Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross breed
4 x XL Bully

4 x American Bull Dog
1 x German Shepherd Dog
1 x Rottweiler
4 x Unknown
1 x Cane Corso
1 x Malinois
1 x Akita
1 x German Shepherd/Husky cross breed

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