



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.1029

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.1029

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

Could I please request the following information:

- The number of dog attacks on a person each month within the last six months, and what the breed of dog was
- The number of fatal dog attacks on a person each month within the last six months, and what the breed of dog was
- The number of dog attacks on another dog each month within the last six months, and what breed of dog the attacker was
- The number of fatal dog attacks on another dog each month within the last six months, and what breed of dog the attacker was
- The number of arrests made over dog attacks and dangerous dogs each month within the last six months, and what breed the dog was
- The number of dogs destroyed after a police incident each month in the last six months, and what breed the dog was

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

Unfortunately, there is no way of electronically retrieving the information you have requested with regards to the number of arrests made.

The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories. Unfortunately there is no single RFA Category for the offence you have stated above.

Whilst it is possible to identify the number of crimes recorded for a specific Home Office Offence, such as "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", and electronically retrieve the police outcome, the only way to determine if an arrest has been made in connection with this offence is to manually review each record. Please note that a crime can be recorded without an arrest being made, meaning that not all crimes will have a linked arrest.

In order to ascertain if any relevant arrest information is recorded, a manual review of 196 records would be required. This would clearly take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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.

By way of assistance and although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

A search of the Crime Recording System has been conducted for records 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, between the dates of 01/04/2023 and 30/09/2023.

This has returned 196 records. The breed of dog was not recorded for the identified records, therefore this information is not available.

The total has been broken down by month below:

Month	Total
Apr	32
May	31
Jun	49
Jul	19
Aug	37
Sep	28
Total	196

There were zero (0) fatal attacks on a person or a dog.

Separately to the Crime Recording System, there is a record of the number of dogs destroyed and the breed. Please see the table below for the details:

Month	Total
Apr	0
May	1x American Bulldog
Jun	1x Rottweiler
Jul	2x Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Aug	1x Pocket Bully
Sep	0

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