



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0533

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 05/07/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0533

On 17/05/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request information from your police force regarding dog-related incidents reported during the following periods: 1st February 2022 – 1st May 2024 for each month.

1. Dog Attacks:

a. Please provide the total number of dog attacks reported during each of the specified periods.

b. For each reported dog attack, please provide:

- Location of the incident (e.g., home, public place).
- Breeds and age of dogs involved (if recorded) for each report.
- Relationship between the victim and the dog (e.g., owner, family member, stranger).

2. Reports About Out-of-Control Dogs:

a. Please provide the total number of reports concerning out-of-control dogs during each of the specified periods.

b. For each report, please provide:

- Location of the incident (e.g., home, public place).
- Breeds and age of dogs involved (if recorded) for each report.

I understand that certain details might be redacted to protect the privacy of individuals involved. However, please provide as much information as possible within the constraints of applicable privacy laws.

On 18/06/2024 we asked you to clarify your request and we explained our process on how The Force records crimes/incidents.

You confirmed you wanted us to search our Incident Recording System for out of control dogs and our Crime Recording System for the offence of "Owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control".

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

Unfortunately the age and breeds (make and model) are not mandated fields and therefore, the data is not easily retrievable. In order to determine the age and breeds (make and model) of the dogs would require us to manually review all crimes and incidents recorded within the requested time frame. There are a total of 1440 incidents and 730 crimes, to review all of these to obtain the relevant information would therefore take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by 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, we have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. We trust this is helpful but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. I can confirm a search has been conducted of our Crime Recording System for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/02/2022 and 01/05/2024 for 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 any person or assistance dog. This has been broken down by Local Policing Area (LPA) and where the relationship field has been completed this has also been provided. Please see the uncorrelated below tables.

Month	2022	2023	2024	Total
Jan	n/a	28	29	57
Feb	14	28	24	66
Mar	29	30	32	91
Apr	19	32	29	80
May	19	31	2	52
Jun	21	49		70
Jul	19	19		38
Aug	33	37		70
Sep	32	28		60
Oct	22	27		49
Nov	21	31		52
Dec	17	28		45
Total	246	368	116	730

LPA	2022	2023	2024	Total
Cheltenham LPA	35	52	15	102
Cotswolds LPA	37	50	16	103
Forest LPA	31	58	17	106
Gloucester LPA	51	74	26	151
Stroud LPA	46	72	22	140
Tewkesbury LPA	33	56	16	105
Unclassified LPA	13	6	4	23
Total	246	368	116	730

Relationship	2022	2023	2024	Total
ACQUAINTANCE	5	2	1	8
BROTHER/SISTER		2		2
FATHER	1	2		3
FRIEND	3			3
GRANDFATHER/MOTHER		1	1	2
MOTHER	5	1	1	7
NEIGHBOUR	1	3		4
NEIGHBOUR***NEIGHBOUR		1		1
PARTNER	1	3		4

Stranger	3	1	3	7
UNKNOWN	3	5	2	10
UNKNOWN***UNKNOWN	1			1
(blank)				
Total	23	21	8	52

2. I can confirm a search has been conducted of Incident Recording System for the date range of 01/02/2022 – 01/05/2024 for the DOG ATT or DOG REL tags. This has been broken down by LPA. Please see the below tables

Month	2022	2023	2024	Total
Jan	n/a	30	80	110
Feb	28	32	84	144
Mar	40	52	97	189
Apr	47	38	93	178
May	44	49	3	96
Jun	56	48		104
Jul	51	56		107
Aug	45	61		106
Sep	29	83		112
Oct	40	68		108
Nov	38	54		92
Dec	32	62		94
Total	450	633	357	1440

LPA	2022	2023	2024	Total
Cheltenham LPA	67	106	70	243
Cotswolds LPA	69	88	59	216
Forest LPA	66	91	52	209
Gloucester LPA	106	149	70	325
Stroud LPA	77	104	59	240
Tewkesbury LPA	57	86	41	184
Traffic	4	2	5	11
Unclassified LPA	4	7	1	12
Total	450	633	357	1440

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