



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0653

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 05/08/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0653

On 09/07/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

The number of reported dog attacks (Home Office code 008/21 – owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales injuring any person or assistance dog) for the following dates:

Feb 1 2020 – July 1 2020
Feb 1 2021 – July 1 2021
Feb 1 2022 – July 1 2022
Feb 1 2023 – July 1 2023
Feb 1 2024 – July 1 2024

Out of the total incidents for each year, please also provide the number that involved a suspected American Bully XL (otherwise known as 'XL Bully') and, separately again, the number that involved a confirmed American Bully XL.

For example, for Feb 1 2020 – July 1 2020, total of 20 incidents with 4 involving a suspected XL Bully and 2 involving a confirmed XL Bully.

Please do not refer me to previous FOI requests as I'm compiling a national list, and the response need to be to the same questions.

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for information relating to the type of dog involved in a crime and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. The only way to determine the breeds recorded, if recorded at all, is to manually review all relevant crime records. From initial searches carried out on receipt of your request, there are over 500 records relevant to the request. A manual review of these records would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

You should consider this to be a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act for this part of your request.

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.

Providing Information Outside of the Act

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.

A search of the Crime Recording System has been conducted to identify substantiated crimes recorded between 01/02 and 01/07 of each of the years 2020-2024, where the offence "Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales injuring any person or assistance dog" has been recorded. This has returned a total of 583 records. Please see the table below for the year breakdown;

Year	Total
2020	80
2021	81
2022	102
2023	170
2024	150

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