



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0424
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 14/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0424

On 15/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of offences of out-of-control dogs causing injury to a person in the last three years (Between April 6th and April 5th 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25). Broken down by year, number of offences, breed of dog, severity of injury and police outcome.
2. The number of dogs seized in the last three years - Broken down by year, by breed and by reason for seizure.
- 3 The number of dogs destroyed in the last three years - broken down by year, by breed and reason for destruction.

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

Regarding Q2 & 3 unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the information by way of electronic searches. The only way of trying to determine the reason for a seizure/destruction and the dogs breed would be to manually review each record. This would involve the review of over 800 records and would therefore take far 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.

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.

For Q1 we have been able to provide the total number of crimes where the offence of Dog out of control – Injury public place is present and have broken the data down by year and the outcome. Unfortunately as with Q1 & 2 the breed of the dog is not available as it is not a mandatory field within our crime recording system and the level of injury would require a manual review of the 989 crimes.

Outcome	Year				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Action undertaken by another body/agency		1			1
Charged/Summoned	9	12	9		30
Diversionsary	2	2		1	5
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	20	30	45	2	97
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	92	127	108	21	348
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest (police decision)		1	1		2
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	34	94	89	17	234
Investigation ongoing		1	13	27	41
Out of court (formal)	1	3	2		6
Out of court (informal)	40	91	76	10	217
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest		6	2		8
Total	198	368	345	78	989

Section 16 – unable to assist

Unfortunately, I'm unable to assist in suggesting ways of refining your request to come within the confines of Section 12 of the Act. Even reducing the timescale would not reduce the number of records enough that a manual review could be conducted within the timescale but still provide meaningful information.

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