



Your reference: N/A  
Our reference: FOI\_25\_0023  
E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk  
Direct dial: 01452 754304  
Postal Address: As above  
Date: 31/01/2025

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_25\_0023**

On 07/01/2025 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 Information Act to request specific data related to dog attacks recorded by your force.

1. How many dog attacks were reported to your force throughout the whole of 2023? If possible, can this data be split by month? If not, an overall annual total is fine.
2. How many dog attacks were reported to your force throughout the whole of 2024? Again, a monthly breakdown would be nice but is not a dealbreaker.
3. For both 2023 and 2024, can you list the top 5 dogs involved in reported dog attacks, and – if possible – note how many reports related to these dogs.

Clarification was sought on 08/01/2025 advising the following:

When an individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely free text and does not record information in as much details as the Crime Recording System and therefore its reporting function is limited.

A search can be conducted of the Crime Recording System 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 can be broken down by month and where it has been recorded the make and model (breed of the dog) may be retrieved.

Please can you let me know if this search would help you with answering your request?

A response to the clarification was received on 09/01/2025 advising of the below:

A search can be conducted of the Crime Recording System 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 can be broken down by month and where it has been recorded the make and model (breed of the dog) may be retrieved.

If it is possible to get the breed data that would be great, but don't stress as I don't want you to spend too much time on this

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to electronically search for the information you have requested in question 3. In order to identify and retrieve the breeds recorded would involve a manual review of the MOs of 713 recorded crimes to ascertain the dogs which was involved in the crimes. This manual review would exceed the 18 hours as 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.

## **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.

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.

A search of the Crime Recording System has been conducted 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, between 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024. The results are as follows:

| Month and Year | Total |
|----------------|-------|
| <b>2023</b>    |       |
| Jan            | 28    |
| Feb            | 28    |
| Mar            | 30    |
| Apr            | 32    |
| May            | 31    |
| Jun            | 49    |
| Jul            | 19    |
| Aug            | 37    |
| Sep            | 28    |
| Oct            | 27    |
| Nov            | 31    |
| Dec            | 28    |
| <b>2024</b>    |       |
| Jan            | 29    |
| Feb            | 24    |
| Mar            | 32    |
| Apr            | 28    |
| May            | 31    |

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Jun          | 34         |
| Jul          | 37         |
| Aug          | 33         |
| Sep          | 26         |
| Oct          | 24         |
| Nov          | 23         |
| Dec          | 24         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>713</b> |

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary