



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0035
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_0035

On 09/01/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Since 2019 how many dog attacks have been reported each year, and if possible, broken down into breeds?

How many dog on human attacks have, to your knowledge, resulted in hospitalisations each year since 2019?

How many reports of XL bully attacks since 2019, and have you noticed a decrease since the 1st February 2024?

Which dog breed carried out the most attacks each year since 2019?

Clarification was sought from you on 15/01/2025, you responded as follows

regarding the above questions crime data would be the most suitable.

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.

In order to provide you with the answer to question 2 would require a manual review of all crimes reported since 01/01/2019 to gather whether the dog attack on a human resulted in hospitalisation. There are over 1,200 crimes and to manually review these would therefore take longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act. Similarly to answer question 4, unfortunately the breed of the dog involved in an attack is not recorded in a format that is electronically retrievable, therefore a manual review would also be required.

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.

Please see the table below for the totals of dog attacks per year

Year	Total
2019	207
2020	209
2021	199
2022	260
2023	368

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