

**Gloucestershire Constabulary**  
Police Headquarters  
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive  
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN  
[www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI\_26\_0133

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 21/05/2026

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_26\_0133**

On 04/02/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to kindly request annual totals from 2010-2025 for the following information and statistics:

1. The number of dog bites from dogs owned by members of the public
2. The number of Level 3 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Gloucestershire police force area
3. The number of Level 4 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Gloucestershire police force area
4. The number of Level 5 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Gloucestershire police force area
5. The number of deaths occurring from dog bites within Gloucestershire police force area
6. The breeds of the offending dogs from the total in request 1 if reported
7. How many dogs were seized following a dog bite incident

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

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 whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each incident.

An initial search of the incident recording system for dog bite incidents between 01/01/2022 and 31/12/2025 has identified over 1300 records that would need to be manually reviewed in order to ascertain the breed of dog which would obviously 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.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

#### 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, I have supplied the information relevant to your request which has already been retrieved. I 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.

Due to a change in system recording, data is only available from 2022 onwards.

1. The number of dog bites from dogs owned by members of the public

| Year Occurring | Number of recorded dog bites |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 2022           | 252                          |
| 2023           | 362                          |
| 2024           | 346                          |
| 2025           | 344                          |

2. The number of Level 3 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Gloucestershire police force area

3. The number of Level 4 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Gloucestershire police force area

4. The number of Level 5 (Dunbar Scale) injuries within Gloucestershire police force area

In relation to Questions 2-4, Gloucestershire Constabulary does not record incidents of dog bites via the Dunbar Scale.

5. The number of deaths occurring from dog bites within Gloucestershire police force area  
0

6. The breeds of the offending dogs from the total in request 1 if reported

We are unable to provide a response to this question as it would require a manual review of 1,304 recorded dog bite incidents in order ascertain the breed of dog.

7. How many dogs were seized following a dog bite incident

From 2022 – 2025 there were 274 dogs seized following a reported dog bite incident.

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