



Response Date:18/07/2024

2024/676 - Dog attacks

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to part which removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. 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.

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.

Feb 1 2020 – July 1 2020 – 150 incidents

Feb 1 2021 – July 1 2021 – 174 incidents

Feb 1 2022 – July 1 2022 – 200 incidents

Feb 1 2023 – July 1 2023 – 272 incidents

Feb 1 2024 – July 1 2024 – 288 incidents

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. These figures were obtained by searching for the Home Office code 008/21 in our Records Management System (RMS) for the dates in question, however, the accuracy can't be guaranteed. Additionally, a manual search would have to be undertaken to identify if the offending dogs breed is recorded. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 15/07/2024