



Response Date:12/12/2025

2025/1252 - Cost of kennelling dangerous dogs

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. The number of dogs seized by your force under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (broken down by Section 1 and Section 3, if possible).

Please note: We were part of an Alliance with Cheshire Police, however this has now ended and do not have access to the data held prior to 2025. These figures are only approximate as we didn't split until the 1st of July so the figures only represent the 2025 cases that were still ongoing between the 1st of Jan and the 30th of June as we lost access to the finalised cases for these dates.

Section 1 – 25

Section 3 – 11

2. The number of seized dogs currently being held in kennels.

23

3. The names of approved kennels in your force area and the total amount paid to each over the same period.

Concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing the identity / location of the businesses/organisations.

Therefore, a public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement

Section 38 (1) Health and Safety

These exemption is a prejudice based qualified exemption, therefore there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Overall Harm

Disclosure of kennels providers can undermine the process of preventing or detecting crime and put the facilities at risk.

Section 38 provides an exemption from disclosing information if it would endanger any individual (including the applicant, the supplier of the information or anyone else).

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Police Headquarters,
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The exemption does not necessarily deal with what are commonly thought of as health and safety matters such as establishing the cause of an accident.

Section 38 focuses on two particular areas where disclosure of information would or would be likely to endanger:

- i. the physical or mental health of any individual, or
- ii. the safety of any individual.

Disclosure of businesses/organisations details not in the public domain is likely to cause issues, distress and upset to those working there.

Public Interest Test – S31(1) Law Enforcement:

Considerations favouring disclosure

The public can have informed discussions on the matter.

Disclosure could lead to better public awareness of its activities and its resources.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

Any individuals currently under investigation could also use the information released to attempt to influence the outcome of the investigation, through intimidate or harassment of the witnesses etc.

Therefore, by applying an exemption providing further information would prevent law enforcement resources from being compromised and would retain the Police force's ability to prevent and detect crimes.

Public Interest Test - Section 38(1) Health & Safety

Considerations favouring disclosure

The public can have informed discussions on the matter.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

It would be appear unfair to place into the public domain information which is likely to cause an individual, for example the facility, distress as disclosure could cause unwanted contact /attention from those interested in this case and possibly intimidation or harassment.

Balancing Test

The issues of accountability and transparency are noted. However, there is some information in the public domain and North Wales Police have answer Freedom of Information requests regarding this case. We cannot release further information that would compromise law enforcement role of the force or put individuals at risk.

It is recognised that transparency is the fundamental objective of the Freedom of information Act and this leads itself to a presumption of disclosure. However, this has to be balanced against the harm that would be caused to law enforcement and individuals by providing kennel names.

It this case the decision is for non-disclosure.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

The total kennelling costs for Feb 2024 – Dec 2025 currently totals £559,680.75 (net).

As explained above we are unable to provide the names of each kennel, but we have split the costs below;

1. £287,682.89
2. £89,739.53
3. £182,258.33

4. The number of seized dogs that were (a) euthanised, (b) returned to owners, or (c) rehomed / other outcome.

Euthanised – 12

Returned to owners – 15

Rehomed - 5

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 08/12/2025