



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date: 05/03/2025

2025/239 - Kennels

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

The NPCC has revealed that between 'February and September 2024, policing has seized over 4,586 suspected S1 dogs throughout England and Wales.'

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.npcc.police.uk%2Freleases%2Fpolice-seize-more-than-4500-xl-bully-dogs-since-ban&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofInformationTeam%40northwales.police.uk%7C3e445c8ad7a94da9d85708dd542df507%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638759278558660360%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIIYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIiAiOiJXaW4zMlIsIkFOIjoITWFpbCIIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2FQCI%2FKWGIa0Vj6ddIcAcyVu8eNJEFTa61hkMcbvE%3D&reserved=0>

1. Please provide the number of suspected S1 dogs you seized between February and September 2024.

31 suspected S1 dogs seized between Feb & Sept 2024

Feb – 4 seized
Mar – 3 seized
Apr – 3 seized
May – 7 seized
Jun – 6 seized
Jul – 2 seized
Aug – 3 seized
Sept – 3 seized

2. Please provide the number of dogs you kennelled in each month between February 2024 to September 2024.

The NPCC has also revealed that it can cost up to £1,000 per month to kennel a dog.

2024
Feb – 26
Mar – 20
Apr – 20
May – 26
Jun – 28
Jul – 27
Aug – 26
Sept – 27

3. Please provide the total amount you spent kennelling dogs in each month between February 2024 and September 2024.

Kennelling costs:

2024

Feb – £7,422.55

Mar – £7,861.60

Apr – £8,431.20

May – £9,566.85

Jun – £13,178.50

Jul – £15,861.55

Aug – £13,156.80

Sept – £24,776.10

4. Please provide the total amounts you spent on (i) food and (ii) care in respect of kennelled dogs in each month between February 2024 and September 2024.

General food costs are included in kennelling fees. If a dog requires specific/specialised food it is listed as an extra. We have shown these below:

2024

Feb vets – £1,864.90

Mar vets – £2,065.23

Mar food – £55.69

Apr vets – £1,265.95

May vets – £3,327.15

Jun vets – £3,767.74

Jun Food – £7.50

Jul vets – £4,507.39

Jul food – £77.50

Aug vets – £1,507.93

Aug food - £35

Sept vets – £1,986.39

Sept food – £55.69

5. Please provide the names of all businesses/organisations you used to kennel dogs between February 2024 and September 2024.

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).

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.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 04/03/2025