

21 August 2024

FOI Ref 17030

Request - You asked us the following:

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.

We received your request on 09/07/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- 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 – **Withheld.**

- 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. – **Withheld.**
- 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. – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer part of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 900 occurrences recorded under Home Office code 008/21, in order to ascertain the breed of the dog involved the record for each offence would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 45 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(1) 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 prescribed limit'.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

To assist in refining your request, data can be provided for question 1 in full if you were to retract the remaining questions regarding dog breed.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit