

24 September 2024

FOI Ref 17155

Request - You asked us the following:

Please could I request the following information:

- How many XL bully attacks have been recorded in your area since 1 Feb 2024?
- Could you also share how many XL bully attacks were recorded last year from Jan 23 to Dec 23?

Please illustrate this in a table/excel sheet with the respective police force in the first column, the month, the number of recorded attacks for that area, and then the number of fatal attacks for that area.

E.g. Met police, February, 89 attacks, x no. of fatalities
E.g. Met, March, x, x
E.g. Met, April
E.g. Met, May
E.g. Met, June
E.g. Met, July
E.g. Met, August

So respectively could this data be from February-August?

We received your request on 15/08/2024 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.

- How many XL bully attacks have been recorded in your area since 1 Feb 2024? – **Withheld.**
- Could you also share how many XL bully attacks were recorded last year from Jan 23 to Dec 23? – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. Between February and August 2024, there have been in excess of 300 occurrences of the offence of 'Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog - Dangerous Dogs Act



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1991'. In order to ascertain whether the dog involved was an XL Bully, the record for each offence would require manual review.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 25 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold. However, you will find the information you have requested regarding XL Bully attacks in 2023 using the below links:

- <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/staffordshire/2024-published-foi-requests/april/foi-16127-dog-attacks.pdf>
- <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/staffordshire/2024-published-foi-requests/april/foi-16127-dog-attacks-data.pdf>

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

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