

18 November 2024

FOI Ref 17406

Request - You asked us the following:

I'm writing to request the following information regarding the implementation of the Dangerous Dogs Act following an update to the list of banned breeds covered by the Act.

I attach an example of a completed response from Devon and Cornwall police, which may be useful as a reference.

Please could you supply:

1. The number of reports made by the public to your territorial police force of "XL Bully" dogs believed to be in contravention of the Dangerous Dogs Act since 1 February 2024.
2. The number of dogs believed to be the XL Bully breed that have been seized by your territorial police force since 1 February 2024.
3. The number of arrests made by your territorial police force for keeping an unregistered XL Bully, breeding these dogs, or other related offences such as selling or allowing them to be in a public space without a lead or muzzle.

Clarification received 06/11/2024:

For question 3, the time frame is for the same as the other two questions – since 1 February 2024.

We received your request on 25/10/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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

The following exemption has 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'.

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 question one of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 570 incidents reported to Staffordshire Police that have been categorised as either pets/domestic animals, or anti-social behaviour involving animals, and any of these incidents may involve an XL Bully. In order to determine this, the record for each incident would require manual review.

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 28 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.

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.

If question one was withdrawn, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide data for questions two and three.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

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

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set



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a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit