

11 October 2024

FOI Ref 17278

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide yearly figures for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 along with monthly figures for all of 2023 and for 2024 from January 1st to 31st August for each of the following questions:

1. The number of crimes recorded for Home Office code 111/17/N: Possession of Pitbull type terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated type dog contrary to Section 1(2) of Dangerous Dogs act
2. The number of crimes recorded for Home Office code 8N/821: Owner or Person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog.

NOTES: If your crime recording systems have been updated or changed since 2019 meaning you cannot provide data for all the years requested then please provide as many years' data as possible.

Additionally if your force has produced a super-response or similar document please can you ensure that any more recent years or months since the super-response was published are included in your response.

Also, if the request for all data back to 2019 will take this request over the cost limit then please can you just provide data for 2022 and monthly data for 2023 and 2024 from 1st January to 31st August.

We received your request on 20/09/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.

1. The number of crimes recorded for Home Office code 111/17/N: Possession of Pitbull type terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated type dog contrary to Section 1(2) of Dangerous Dogs act - **No information held.**
2. The number of crimes recorded for Home Office code 8N/821: Owner or Person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17278 Dangerous Dog Crimes Data.PDF'.**

Please note that the offence in question 1 is not a recordable offence and therefore Staffordshire Police has no facility to record such information.

The following exemptions have been applied:

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

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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