



**HEDDLU
GWENT
POLICE**



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2024/27893

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:

1. From 1 February to 30 September 2024, how many suspected XL bully type dogs in your force area:
 - a) Have been seized and held in police kennels?
 - b) Have been destroyed by police?
 - c) Have been destroyed by a vet or other professional after being seized by police?
 - d) Have been seized and later returned to their owners?
 - e) Have died while in police kennels?
2. How many suspected XL bully type dogs are currently being held in police kennels?



RESPONSE

We are only able to provide information on XL Bullies held in police kennels. There will be instances where a dog is seized at the scene and immediately taken to the vets for euthanasia without being kennelled. We had 1,334 dog related incidents between 1st February and 30th September 2024. At an average of 3 minutes per log to check whether the dog was an XL Bully and if it was euthanised, it will take 66 hours to check all of the logs. For this reason, a Section 12 exemption is applied.

Section 12 – Excess Cost

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested for this question can be found at Section 12(1) of the Act and this refusal notice is issued under Section 17.

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 appropriate limit.”

In the case of a police force, the appropriate limit is set at £450, which is calculated at £25 per hour (i.e. 18 hours). Gwent Police would have to conduct a manual search to find and extract the information for this question. This would take more than 18 hours of staff time therefore we are unable to answer this question and the exemption is engaged.

We appreciate that you may be disappointed on this occasion that we are unable to provide the requested information. However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have a duty to assist you in relation to refining your request, where we may be able to answer some of your questions.

1. From 1 February to 30 September 2024, how many suspected XL bully type dogs in your force area:

a) Have been seized and held in police kennels?

88

b) Have been destroyed by police?

0

c) Have been destroyed by a vet or other professional after being seized by police?

12 were taken from police kennels to be destroyed by a vet. We do not have the number of those seized at the scene and taken straight to the vet for the reason given above.



d) Have been seized and later returned to their owners?

60

e) Have died while in police kennels?

None

2. How many suspected XL bully type dogs are currently being held in police kennels?

41 confirmed XL Bullies, plus 2 dogs suspected of being XL Bullies and awaiting assessment.

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.

ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.