



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2025/28033

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

**Please provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**How many injuries from dog attacks of any breed have there been in your police force area in the calendar year of 2023 and 2024?**

**How many injuries from dog attacks from XL bullies have there been in your police force area in the calendar year of 2023 and 2024?**

**If it is not possible to provide some of the data requested, I would be grateful if you could provide whichever elements of this FOI request are eligible for release.**

### RESPONSE

We are unable to provide the total numbers of injuries from dog attacks, only ones which have resulted in charges against the owner. There are on average 150 dog related incidents each month, and a manual trawl would be required where every incident would need to be checked to see if there was injury (150 incidents x 24 months = roughly 3600 incidents. 3600 incidents x 3 minutes to review = 180 hours). As such, the following Section 12 exemption is applied at the bottom of the disclosure.

We are able to search the number of charges of aggravated Section 3, which is a dog dangerously out of control causing injury, and review these to see which dogs



are *SUSPECTED* XL Bullies. We use the caveat “suspected”, because some of these dogs will have been taken straight to the vets for destruction without being formally identified by a Dog Legislation Officer.

**The following are the number of charges of a dog being dangerously out of control causing injury.**

How many injuries from dog attacks of any breed have there been in your police force area in the calendar year of 2023 and 2024?

2023 – 19

2024 – 25

**The following are the number of charges of a dog being dangerously out of control causing injury by dogs suspected of being XL Bullies. Please note, not all of these dogs will have been formally identified as XL Bullies.**

How many injuries from dog attacks from XL bullies have there been in your police force area in the calendar year of 2023 and 2024?

2023 – 7

2024 – 11

### **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.

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



**HEDDLU  
GWENT  
POLICE**



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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.**