



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2025/29066

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

- 1) How many dog attacks were recorded in the police force area over the last five years (calendar or financial years will do – however you record them)?
- 2) Can you provide a breakdown of the age of the victims involved in the attacks over the last five years? For the purposes of this question, age ranges would suffice.
- 3) How many staff have been attacked whilst responding to reports of dog attacks over the last five years?
- 4) How many police sick days have been recorded as a result of dog attacks over the last five years?
- 5) How many dogs have been destroyed as a result of dog attacks over the last five years?

CLARIFICATION NEEDED FROM REQUESTOR:

Please can you clarify what is meant by staff. Does this include police officers?

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED:

Yes, this is for police officers primarily.

RESPONSE

- 1) How many dog attacks were recorded in the police force area over the last five years (calendar or financial years will do – however you record them)?



To avoid an exemption, please find attached a table for all crimes recorded under Violence with Injury, ‘allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control’. To provide this data we have searched under Violence with Injury and filtered to Allowing a dog to be Dangerously Out of Control. Please note that this data may include – ‘attack’ dog to dog and dog to person.

Crime Category - Violence with Injury	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
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. DANGEROUS DOGS ACT 1991	308	375	426	529	446	2084

2) Can you provide a breakdown of the age of the victims involved in the attacks over the last five years? For the purposes of this question, age ranges would suffice.

Please find below a table for Violence with Injury, ‘allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control’ with a victim attached to the crime. To provide this information we have searched under Violence with Injury, ‘allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control’ and filtered to victim.

Violence with Injury – victim age	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
0 - 17	52	66	78	100	67	363
18 - 25	20	24	34	43	38	159
26 - 30	34	19	31	57	32	173
31 - 40	44	64	82	78	80	348
41 - 50	59	77	80	68	61	345
51 - 60	43	45	50	64	65	267
61 - 70	20	33	27	41	41	162
71 - 80	20	21	17	29	18	105
81 - 95	3	8	4	3	7	25
Not Stated	9	11	12	24	21	77
Total	308	370	421	513	434	2046

3) How many staff have been attacked whilst responding to reports of dog attacks over the last five years?

There is no filter to identify if staff / police officers have been attacked. In order to find this information, a manual trawl would have to be completed on each offence within this time period. There are 2046 offences with a victim attached. It would take



5 minutes to look through each record to identify if staff / police officers have been attacked. This would take over 170 hours to complete 2046 records x 5 minutes per record = 10,230 minutes / 60 = 170+ hours which is over the 18 hours and would therefore be exempt.

Please find Section 12 applied below.

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.

4. How many police sick days have been recorded as a result of dog attacks over the last five years?

We do not have recording mechanism in GRS to state sickness from dog attacks

5. How many dogs have been destroyed as a result of dog attacks over the last five years?

There isn't a filter we can apply which would tell us which dogs were euthanised. A researcher would need to go through the 2046 logs. This would take over 170 hours to complete 2046 records x 5 minutes per record = 10,230 minutes / 60 = 170+ hours which is over the 18 hours and would therefore be exempt.

Please find Section 12 applied below.

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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.