

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



28th November 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 983/24 – Reported Dog Attacks

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 1st November 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The number of reported dog attacks (Home Office code 008/21 – owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England or Wales injuring any person or assistance dog) from Jan 1st 2023 to Nov 1st 2024, giving a month by month breakdown.*
- 2. Of those - if time constrains allow, - please provide a month by month breakdown of of the number involving a suspected American Bully XL (otherwise known as 'XL Bully') and, separately again, the number that involved a confirmed American Bully XL.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case, I have today decided to disclose this to you.

To provide information, searches were undertaken on the Constabulary's Crime database for the offence, 'Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in Any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog', for the dates specified in your request.

In relation to Question 2, please note that dog breeds are not a mandatory recording field in our crime recording system. Data has been provided from a keyword search using %XL% and %Bully% and is based upon the breed recorded at the time of the incident. Further investigation by experts in this field would be required to confirm the dog breed and therefore the data cannot be categorially confirmed as an American Bully XL.

Information for Questions 1 and 2 is provided on the attached PDF



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Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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