

T/Chief Constable
T/Chief Constable Darren Martland
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



3rd December 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1475/25 XL Bully Dogs

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 7th November 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. I would like to know how many incidents you were called to involving an XL Bully dog in the past 12 months?*
- 2. How many arrests have been made following an incident involving an XL Bully dog in the past 12 months?*
- 3. How many XL Bully dogs have been put down in the past 12 months?*
- 4. Specifically, I would like to know the arresting offences and outcome of each arrest (i.e. charged, released without charge, caution, etc)*

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.

Question 1

There have been 62 incidents attended by police regarding reports of XL Bully breed between 01/11/2024 - 31/10/2025.

Please note that a number of these incidents were either confirmed not to be banned breed types at the scene, not located or owner had a certificate for, and no offences proven.

Question 2

There is no filter for XL Bully in arrest data, therefore, a keyword search has been conducted using the term 'XL Bully'. There was 1 mention of an arrest relating to XL Bully dogs in the incident log for offence 'Dangerous Dog Out of Control', the other incidents involved dogs either seized at scene, confirmed not to be XL's, confirmed to have an exemption certificate, not found at the location, or a dangerous dog out of control crime recorded.

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the words were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

Question 3

There have been 7 XL Bully dogs that have been put down between 03/12/2024 and 03/12/2025.



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Question 4

Below is the number of notifiable offences recorded where XL Bully is mentioned in the MO (not necessarily confirmed) as the arrests relating to XL Bully cannot be identified in the search parameters in the arrest data (the arrest may refer to any banned breed in the Dangerous Dogs Act)

Between 01/11/2024 - 31/10/2025, there was one arrest of Offence: 008/21 - 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 where XL Bully is mentioned in the MO (not necessarily confirmed). This had a charged outcome.

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

If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

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



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