

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



14th January 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 13/25 Dog attack data from 2019

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 4th of January 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Since 2019 how many dog attacks have been reported each year, and if possible, broken down into breeds?*
- 2. How many dog on human attacks have, to your knowledge, resulted in hospitalisations each year since 2019?*
- 3. How many reports of XL bully attacks since 2019, and have you noticed a decrease since the 1st February 2024?*
- 4. Which dog breed carried out the most attacks each year since 2019?*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To locate and retrieve all the information you seek in question 2 it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of all reports of dog attacks recorded since 2019, of which there are 1684 recorded.

I have estimated that the time required to complete a manual review to locate and extract all information relevant to your request would significantly exceed the “appropriate limit”, as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The current limit for police forces is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of work.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 view of this, and in accordance with Section 17(5) of the Act, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice for your request, by virtue of Section 12(1).

However, as a gesture of goodwill and in keeping with the duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, I can provide you with some information which has been retrieved within the 18hour limit.



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The information provided has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system. Dog breeds are not a mandatory recording field in our crime recording system, therefore the data provided has been extracted from a keyword search in the summarised crime notes.

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the terms used 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.

It should also be noted that dog breeds in this data are alleged/reported by the reporter and would require further investigation by experts in this field to confirm the breed. This would not be categorically determined within the force.

Question 1- *Since 2019 how many dog attacks have been reported each year, and if possible, broken down into breeds?*

Please note that despite the extensive keyword used only 215 Breeds of the 1,685 results were recorded.

Count of Crime Number							
Breed (where provided)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Akita/Type		1		1			2
Alsatian/Type	2	1	2	2	3	1	11
British Bulldog/Type			1		2	3	6
Bull Mastiff/Type	3	1	1	1	2		8
Chihuahua/Type					1		1
Chow Chow/Type	1						1
Collie/Type	7	6	9	6	3	9	40
Doberman/Type				2			2
French Bull Dog/Type			1		3	2	6
German ShepherdType	3	4	4	3	3	5	22
Husky/Type	1	2		1	2	1	7
Jack Russell/Type	2	4	2	3	6		17
Labrador/Type	1		1		2		4
Lurcher/Type	1	2		2	1		6
OtherDog	191	189	198	269	289	333	1469
Patterdale/Type				1	1		2
Pitbull/Type			1		1	3	5
Pomeranian/Type			1			1	2
Poodle/Type					1		1
Rottweiler/Type	1		3	5	1	3	13
Spaniel/Type	1	1	3	2	2		9
Staffordshire Bull Terrier/Type	11	4	5	3	3	7	33
Whippet/Type				3		1	4
XL Bully/Type			1		2	8	11
Yorkshire Terrier/Type	1	1					2
Grand Total	226	216	233	304	328	377	1684



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Please note that the 'OtherDog' Categorisation includes those unknown, not specified or mixed breeds.

Question 3- *How many reports of XL bully attacks since 2019, and have you noticed a decrease since the 1st February 2024?*

	2021	2023	2024									Grand Total
	Feb	Jan	May	Mar	Apr	Jun	Aug	Sep	Nov	Dec		
Count of Crime Number	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1		11

Question 4- *Which dog breed carried out the most attacks each year since 2019?*

This question is answered with the table provided in response to question 1.

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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