

Our Ref: 008722/15



**Freedom of Information Section**  
Nottinghamshire Police HQ  
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold  
Nottingham NG5 8PP

**Tel:** 101  
**Ext** 800 2507  
**Fax:** 0115 967 2896

23 December 2015

**Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 03/12/2015.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

**RESPONSE**

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

***I would like to request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.***

***The number of dangerous dogs seized in the county, the number of attacks reported and the number of dogs destroyed. I would like this information broken down by year from 2010 to present and by police division.***

***Clarification received 10/12/2015***

***Dog attacks includes:  
dog v human  
dog v dog  
dog v any animal***

With regards to your request regarding 'dog attack' incidents, this information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. Dog attack incidents and crimes are not recorded within a distinct category, therefore to retrieve and



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extract any data in respect of your request would involve conducting key word searches. Key word searches for the words 'Dog' and 'Attack' and 'dog' and 'bite' occurring within crime MO's has been conducted which brought back 470 offences. However, such searches would yield all results where the keywords appeared anywhere within the crime MO and would not necessarily only bring back those offences relating to dog bites/attack. We would need to manually assess each crime to establish whether it fell within the scope of your request.

It is estimated that to search one record would take approximately 3 minutes which would equate to approximately 23.5 working hours. This takes the request over the cost threshold of 18 working hours and engages Section 12 (1) of the Act.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

**12. – (1)** Section 1(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.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

Alternatively you are invited to refine your request to bring it within the cost threshold – perhaps by reducing the number of years you require data for, and resubmitting the request.

In accordance with the Act, once one part of the request is excess cost the whole request exceeds the cost threshold. Under Section 16 of the Act: Advice and guidance, I am happy to provide you with the numbers of dogs seized and the number of dog related prosecutions which have been able to be retrieved within the cost threshold as below.

### **Dog Seizures**

There are no records of any dogs being seized prior to 2010, as there was no Dog Legislation Officer (DLO) in Notts.

2010 - 1 dangerous dog was seized. The dog was seized from Nottingham City Council area. 1 dog was destroyed

2011 - 12 dangerous dogs were seized, all were from Nottingham City Council area. 4 were destroyed

2012 - 57 dangerous dogs were seized, 3 from Ashfield, 2 from Broxtowe, 38 from City, 6 from Gedling, 1 from Mansfield, 5 from Newark and 2 from Rushcliffe. 40 were destroyed

2013 - 80 dangerous dogs were seized, 1 from Ashfield, 3 from Worksop, 4 from Broxtowe, 48 from City, 2 from Gedling, 12 from Mansfield, 9 from Newark and 1 from Rushcliffe. 46 were destroyed

2014 - 67 dangerous dogs were seized, 43 from City Council area, 6 from Newark, 5 from Mansfield, 3 from Broxtowe Borough Council, 4 from Bassetlaw, 3 from Gedling, 2 from Ashfield and 1 from Rushcliffe. 41 were destroyed

2015 - 81 dangerous dogs were seized (up to 03/12/2015), 52 from City Council area, 9 from Mansfield, 2 from Broxtowe Borough Council, 9 from Bassetlaw, 3 from Gedling, 5 from Ashfield and 1 from Rushcliffe. 38 were destroyed and 9 are awaiting the Courts decision

### **Prosecutions\***

2011 – 23 prosecutions for dog dangerously out of control

2012 – 19 prosecutions for dog dangerously out of control

2013 – 22 prosecutions for dog dangerously out of control

2014 – 27 prosecutions for dog dangerously out of control

2015 – 29 prosecutions for dog dangerously out of control

\* Figures include prosecutions for the following:

Owner / person in charge of dog dangerously out of control in a public place - no injury

Owner of a dog allow it to be dangerously out of control in public place and cause injury

Person in charge of a dog allow it to be dangerously out of control in public place and cause injury

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime 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 crime 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.**

Additionally, Freedom of Information requests have previously been made on this subject for a shorter time parameters meaning that some information has been able to be retrieved within the cost threshold. These are available to view on our website and I have included the links for your assistance below:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/FOI%20003358%2015.pdf>

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/FOI%20005184%2015.pdf>

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/FOI%20003356%2015.pdf>

**Complaints Rights**

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

**Copyright**

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail [freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk) quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

**Disclosure Officer**

## **Are you dissatisfied with your response?**

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

### **How do I appeal?**

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management  
Nottinghamshire Police  
Force Headquarters  
Sherwood Lodge  
Arnold  
Notts  
NG5 8PP

or alternatively [freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

### **What if I'm still not satisfied?**

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)