

18th July 2023

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 23.009907

Thank you for your request for recorded data held by South Yorkshire Police.

Request

1. How many dogs were seized by your force in the last ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and reason for the seizure.

- Please break down the data by calendar year: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date.

2. How many dogs were destroyed by your force in the last ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and reason for the destruction.

- Please break down the data by calendar year: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date.

3. How many people died after being attacked by a dog in your area in the last ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and the age of the victim.

- Please break down the data by calendar year: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date.

4. How many dog attacks did you record in your area in the past ten years? Please list by breed, if known, and the age of the victim.

- Please break down the data by calendar year: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date.

5. In the last ten years, how many people have been arrested for breeding or selling a banned dog breed under the dangerous dogs act?

- Please break down the data by calendar year: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date.

Response

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 12(1) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

For the data prior to 2018 - data is held on an historic system no longer in use and cannot be readily extracted. Manual reviews would be required to find the data within the system, bringing cost into play. Therefore this data cannot be located or retrieved in a readily retrievable format within cost, and as such your request would trigger the s12 cost exemption.

However to assist your request for the data 2018 to 2023, I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crime'.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

Please see the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of the search criteria:

Provide are a count of offences recorded on CONNECT Crime where a Victim is recorded with the HO Classification Code 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), broken down by Victims age at time of offence, Outcome of offence and Year recorded, between Incident Created Date 04-DEC-2017 and 20-JUN-2023.

Breed data – this is not a mandatory requirement on an offence record.

For Q3, I have included the "Fatal Injury" field to attempt to answer this question and for the period stated there are no offences recorded with "YES".

Q5 – See Outcomes

Please note –

- CONNECT is a live recording system. Data extracted on the 21st June 2023.
- The data set only includes offences recorded under 8N, 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) and does not include other offences whereby a dog may have attacked someone in the process of another crime type.
 - More than one victim may be recorded on an offence, therefore the count of offences may not match the count of victims.

Q1 and Q2 has been provided from an Analyst from a separate recording system. Breed is not recorded.

1.The total number of dogs seized each year

No breed unfortunately

Reasons for seizures are:-

Dangerous Dogs Action

Dangerous Dog Breed

Dangerous dog both Breed and Action

Welfare

Stray

Other (Prisoner property/ sudden death etc)

1.How many dogs were seized by your force in the last ten years?

2014 153

2015 138
2016 169
2017 138
2018 77
2019 117
2020 144
2021 235
2022 449

2.The number of dogs destroyed each year.

2014 76
2015 65
2016 96
2017 67
2018 37
2019 32
2020 56
2021 58
2022 148