

31st October 2023

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 23.010218

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

Request

Please provide figures under the Freedom of Information Act for each year from 2018 to the most recent complete month of 2023.

- 1) The number of times the offence of an 'out of control dog causing injury' (008/21) has been recorded.**
- 2) Please provide the data from Q1 split by victim demographics, including, but not limited to:**
 - a) Age**
 - b) Gender**
 - c) Ethnicity**
 - d) Relationship between victim and suspect**
- 3) The data from Q1 split by outcome**
- 4) If available, please also provide the data from Q1 split by dog breed.**

Response

Q2d & Q4 –

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(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

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

They advised the relationship between victim and suspect is not a mandatory field and reliant on this being inputted in a free text field in the first instance. To see if we hold such data on relationships would require manually reviewing the 3441 Offences located for Q1, to firstly see if this has been recorded and then extract it.

Further Breed is not a mandatory field on Connect and again would require reviewing the Offences

When taken together the process to meet the criteria of your request would exceed the 18hr time rule allowed by the Act.

authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded.

I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .

Q1, 2a, b, c & Q3

The Crime Management Data Returns Administrator provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet of data and the following explanation of their search criteria using offence code 00821 - *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*

Criteria Used - Incident Created Date is between 01/01/2018 and 31/08/2023, SYP & crime only filter, HO Classification is equal to / is in 008/21, Person Role is equal to / is in VICTIM

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

Police forces do not use generic systems or identical procedures for capturing the data. For these reasons this response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with responses you may receive from other police forces.