

7th November 2023

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 23.010309

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

Request

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning Dog attacks in the Rotherham Area.

Can you please outline:

- 1. The number of Dog attacks that have occurred between 2020 and 2023 to BOTH humans and other animals**
- 2. The proportion of attacks in this three year bracket that were caused by XL Bullies**
- 3. The number of XL bullies seized from the area**

Response

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'.

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

They provided me with the below data and the following explanation of their search criteria:

Please find the dataset attached for FOI 23.010309

Criteria Used - Incident Created Date is between 01/01/2020 and 31/10/2023, SYP & crime only filter, Full Offence Title is equal to

Assault with Injury - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person,

Attempted - Assault with Injury - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person,

Attempted - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person,

Attempted - 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, Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person, 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, BCU Desc is equal to / is in Rotherham

Q1 -

Crime Recorded Year	2020	2021	2022	2023

Count of Crime	88	111	150	151
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Q2 – Breed is not a mandatory requirement on the Connect record so I have reviewed the MO summaries to collate a figure of Offences that show an XL bully involved - 4

Q3 - Seized count force level (No district breakdown) Dogs seized by SYP force under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Seized

2020 79

2021 132

2022 303

2023 312 to date

The force did not record a breakdown of seized dogs by Breed on this separate system until July 2023 so we cannot provide a breakdown for the earlier dates.

From July 2023 - 21 XL Bully dogs have been seized.

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data has been extracted from data sources used by this force for police purposes. The detail collected to respond specifically to your request is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording systems and information assets. The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures/data for any requests may have limitations, and this should be taken into account when those data are used

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.