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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2023/19072  
25 October 2023

Dear [Redacted]

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Dog attacks from January 2010**

Thank you for your request for information of 27 September 2023 about dog attacks from January 2010. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*Please can I be provided with the following which is all date and information held by the Government for each question from 2010 to present date Broken down into breed and year.*

### ***Dangerous and BSL dogs***

- 1. since 2010 how many dog attacks have been reported*
- 2. of those attacks how many resulted in loss of life – As above, but we can say how many deaths have been publicly reported.*

The information in parts 1 and 2 of this request is not held by Defra. This is because enforcement authorities and healthcare services are not required to report this information to Defra. This information may be collected by the NHS, individual police forces and local authorities.

- 3. what happened to each of the dogs*
- 4. what was the dog breed recorded as*
- 5. who made the dog breed assessment*
- 6. what happened to the owner of the dog*

The information in parts 3 to 6 is not held by Defra. The information may be held by individual police forces and local authorities.

- 7. if court action what was the result*

The information in part 7 is not held by Defra. The information may be held by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). They can be contacted at the email address below:

[data.access@justice.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gov.uk)

- 8. what was the history of each dog i.e age, intact, previous issues with behaviour*
- 9. of the dogs seized and determined on the banned list, how many of these were involved in dog attacks.*



The information in parts 8 and 9 is not held by Defra. The information may be held by individual police forces.

### **XL BULLY**

10. *How many dog attacks have been recorded as XL bullies since 2010*
11. *who assessed the dogs*
12. *are some dogs, involved in the attacks, still currently under assessment*
13. *what checks are performed on the dog during an assessment*
14. *of the assessment what part did the dog fail*
15. *who defined them as XL Bullies*
16. *what was the determining factor that decided they were xl bullies*

The information in parts 10 to 16 is not held by Defra. The information is held by individual police forces/local authorities.

17. *what information do the Government hold to say they are a "dangerous breed" can this information be provided to me.*

18. *where can these reports be found*

The press notice and written statements are available at the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-ban-american-xl-bully>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-09-18/hlws1022>

As this information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

19. *do you have photographs if yes please can these be provided*

The information in part 19 is not held by Defra. Individual police forces may hold this information.

20. *what information does DEFRA hold to reach the decision that XL bullies were involved in the attacks.*

Publicly available information that we have monitored in press and media reports (accessible by an internet search via a search engine), as well as confidential police reports regarding individual fatalities, indicate that the XL Bully breed type has been disproportionately involved in serious attacks and fatalities since 2022. Please note these police reports concern dog attacks that result in fatalities and not all dog attacks. As these reports were handed to Defra in strict confidence by the police to confirm whether or not the dog involved in a fatality is a prohibited breed type, it is likely that this information would engage an exemption in the FOIA should it be requested.

21. *does DEFRA have the background information on each dog involved in the attacks i.e previous history of attacks, if so can I have this information*

Defra does not hold information in relation to the background of each dog involved in dog attacks. This may be held by individual police forces or local authorities.

22. does Defra have background information on the owner, can I have redacted information. i.e do they have pre cons, history known to social services, what was the dogs environment.

Defra does not hold the background information on the owner for each dog involved in dog attacks. This may be held by individual police forces or local authorities.

### **Costs**

*Under the current BSL I would like a yearly breakdown of the following:-*

*23. across the Country the cost of boarding a suspected dangerous seized dog;*

*24. cost of boarding a BSL dog;*

The information in parts 23 and 24 is not held by Defra. These costs are not standardised and will depend upon the area and individual kennels.

*25. cost of the assessment for a dangerous dog;*

*26. cost of assessment for a BSL dog;*

The information in parts 25 and 26 is not held by Defra. The cost will vary. Individual police forces may hold this information for the areas they cover.

*27. cost of euthanising a dangerous dog;*

*28. cost of euthanising a BSL dog*

The information in parts 27 and 28 is not held by Defra. The cost will vary across the country and will also depend upon which veterinary practice(s) is used.

*29. cost of a court case for a dangerous dog*

*30. cost of a court case for a BSL dog*

The information in parts 29 and 30 is not held by Defra. The information may be held by the MoJ. They can be contacted at the email address below:

[data.access@justice.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gov.uk)

*31, What is the overall budget, per year, for this issue - how much has been spent per year on this issue.*

The information in part 31 is not held by Defra, as we do not cost account staff time spend on specific areas of work.

*32. Of all the seizing of suspected BSL dogs how many were typed as "banned" dogs –*

*33. how many were sent home as not of banned type*

*34. how many "banned" dogs were euthanise:*

The information in parts 32 to 34 is not held by Defra. Individual police forces will hold this information for the areas they cover.

*35. how many banned dogs were put on the exempt list.*

The information you have request in part 35 is available here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-26/7758>

and here

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1153439/FOI2023\\_06984\\_Response\\_Redacted\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1153439/FOI2023_06984_Response_Redacted_Accessible.pdf)

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

*36. How many are currently on the "banned" list.*

We can confirm that as of 19 October 2023 there are 3493 dogs on the Index of Exempted Dogs.

*37. How many BSL experts do you have in the country to determine the breed.*

The information in part 37 is not held by Defra, we don't have a figure for the total number of Dog Legislation Officers who perform this function. The information may be held by individual police forces for the areas they cover.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

**Information Rights Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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## Annex B

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to <sup>[Redacted]</sup>, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>