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Our Ref: FOI2017/01626

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2017/01626

I write in connection with your request for information received on 7th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

- 1) How many attacks by dogs, both on humans and other animals, were recorded in the last five calendar years in your area?**
- 2) What breeds of dog were these attacks committed by?**
- 3) How many of these breeds are classed as “dangerous” under the Dangerous Dogs Act and are included in Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) policy?**
- 4) If said dog was registered under BSL, how many of these animals were impounded or destroyed following the attack?**
- 5) How many dogs placed in kennels during BSL confirmation procedure are ultimately deemed to be “dangerous” under the terms of the Dangerous Dog Act?**
- 6) If a convicted dog was owned under BSL, did the owner have a history of crime, or were they considered an issue by the local Police force?**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response – In Hertfordshire over the past 5 calendar years there were over 1,000 crimes relating to dog attacks under ‘DOGS – OWNER ALLOW DANG OUT CONTROL PUB PLACE INJ’ and that excludes any which might have been recorded as criminal damage (a dog being ‘property’).

Each individual record would require manually checking to answer your request which would vastly exceed the 18 hours as stated in the Freedom of Information 2000.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
“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.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Hertfordshire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.