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Our Ref: FOI2018/02308

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/02308

I write in connection with your request for information received on 30th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 allows police forces to detain dogs which are dangerously out of control or which are suspected of being dogs which are prohibited by section 1(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Please will you provide the following statistics for 2017, or for the last available financial year:

1. What period do your answers relate to?
2. How many dogs were seized by your force as prohibited breeds during the last available 12 month period?
3. How many dogs were seized by your force as dangerous dogs during the last available 12 month period?

If it is not possible to differentiate whether dogs were seized on suspicion of being dangerous or as a prohibited breed, please give the total figure.

4. Of those dogs:
 - a. How many dogs were disclaimed and destroyed without a court order?
 - b. How many were returned as not being a prohibited breed?
 - c. How many applications were brought by your force for a destruction order under section 4B of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991?
 - d. How many prosecutions were brought for an offence connected with a prohibited dog under s1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991?
 - e. How many dogs were returned to their owners/keepers under the interim exemption scheme which applies to prohibited dogs?

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.

Response - Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below;

1. 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018
2. 28 dogs were seized. Some dogs will be seized on suspicion of Section 1 & Section 3 offences which are shown in this figure, they are not duplicated in response to question 3 of your request.
3. 17 dogs were seized. The figures recorded shows dogs seized for offences under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act.
4. a. 17
b. 3
c. 1 **Please note** – this dog was subsequently disclaimed and the Court case cancelled.
d. 0
e. 2

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

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

Yours sincerely

Sonia Chopra-Miah
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.