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16/04/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2831/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding Dog Legislation Officers, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

I am seeking recorded information about training provided to Dog Legislation Officers and other officers involved in Dangerous Dogs Act breed type identification, specifically training relating to XL Bully type identification following the prohibition of the XL Bully type.

Please provide the following information as held by your force.

1) Training for newly qualifying Dog Legislation Officers

Please provide recorded information describing how XL Bully type identification is covered within the Dog Legislation Officer training course currently used by your force, including

- a. The duration of training allocated to XL Bully type identification
- b. A brief description of the topics covered
- c. The organisation responsible for delivering this training
- d. The role types of trainers involved e.g. police trainers, legal trainers, external specialists
- e. When deciding on accredited experts to teach this course, what accreditation bodies are considered appropriate, specifically in relation to accredited subject matter experts on identifying breed type?

2) Additional training for officers qualified prior to the XL Bully prohibition

Please confirm whether top up training on XL Bully type identification was provided to officers who were already qualified as Dog Legislation Officers or otherwise tasked with breed type assessments at the time of the prohibition. If yes, please provide:

- a. The format of the training e.g. in person session, online session, briefing note
- b. The duration of the training
- c. A brief description of the topics covered
- d. The organisation or role responsible for delivering the training

3) Training materials

Please confirm whether your force holds any training materials specifically relating to XL Bully type identification, such as slides, manuals, guidance notes, or visual reference materials, and whether these can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act.

4) Assessment and sign off

Please provide recorded information describing whether officers receive any formal assessment, competency sign off, or verification of understanding in relation to XL Bully type identification training.

NPCC Response:

1) Training for newly qualifying Dog Legislation Officers

- a. Dog Legislation Officer programme is two weeks (10x working days). Identification of prohibited types are woven throughout the course and not tied to a specific single lesson.
- b. The role and functions of a DLO
Background and rationale for the legislation
Internal and External Partnership Working
Basic canine behaviours
Identification of a dog and it's breed / type (including handling skills)
Applying the legislation with example cases
Court Presentation
The Index of Exempted Dogs
Fatal & Serious Dog Attacks
- c. The Dog Legislation Officer programme is licenced by the College of Policing with the curriculum provided in consultation with the NPCC Dangerous Dog Working Group.

Currently the programme is delivered by 4x forces (Metropolitan Police, Merseyside Police, West Midlands Police and West Yorkshire Police).

- d. The Dog Legislation Officer course is taught by Police Trainers. This can either be an Officer or member of Staff. External specialists are required provided where forces do not have the internal expertise and may be such as veterinary surgeon.
- e. The course is only taught by experienced Officers / Staff who have real life experience in a Dog Legislation Officer role. On occasions this may involve retired personnel employed as external consultants. General or Omniscient trainers from other subject areas are not used.

2) Additional training for officers qualified prior to the XL Bully prohibition

- a. This was in person training
- b. 1 Day
- c. History of the XL Bully
Identification of the XL Bully
Statutory Instruments and Legal Framework
- d. Training was delivered by the existing 4 authorised training centres (see answer 1C above)

3) Training materials

The NPCC does not hold recorded information captured by part 3 of your request.

4) Assessment and sign off

Training at this stage was only provided to existing Dog Legislation Officers. As they were already trained and had been assessed in identification methodology no further assessment was conducted. New DLOs (after January 2024) are assessed against breed / type identification through a court presentation and cross examination exercise which is externally peer reviewed.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.