

Requested information:

Further to my FOI 'What has the Dog Warden done in Twerton and Whiteway?' I would like some information about fines for dog fouling please.

In the Twerton and Whiteway area, how many fines have been issued for dog fouling in the last ten years?

Across the whole of Bath, how many fines have been issued for dog fouling in the last ten years?

Any information relevant to this would be appreciated.

Response:

"...In the Twerton and Whiteway area, how many fines have been issued for dog fouling in the last ten years?"

The Council's Dog Warden has advised that dog fouling incidents that have occurred within the Bath area have been recorded under the general area of 'Bath' and have not been broken down further by a specific neighbourhood/area of Bath e.g. Twerton or Whiteway etc. However the Dog Warden can recall one successful recent prosecution in the Twerton area that resulted in a fine of circa £2500.

Unfortunately the Council does not hold further easily accessible information in regards to the number of fines that have been issued in the past ten years specifically to the Twerton and Whiteway neighbourhoods of Bath.

Our Customer Services team have advised that any records held regarding dog fouling in their database would be linked to customer name instead of the type or subject of the entry e.g. dog fouling. Therefore the team would need to review each individual case in their system in order to ascertain if it was relating to the requested type/subject and also to the requested neighbourhood of Bath.

It has been estimated that to do this would take the Council in excess of 18 hours (2.5 days).

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 recognises that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the process of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit – as set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Charges) Regulations 2004 this is 18 hours. For requests which will exceed 18 hours to administer, by which is meant:

- (a) determining whether it holds the information,
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,

- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it,

the authority may refuse the request or levy a charge at £25 per hour for staff time.

Although the council aim to be transparent and accountable to the public, we must balance this against the large amount of officer time that would be used in responding to such large requests. Therefore based on the amount of time it would take to fulfil your request, we are refusing it under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

“...Across the whole of Bath, how many fines have been issued for dog fouling in the last ten years?...”

The Council's Dog Warden has been able to locate the following information from their records in regards to dog fouling fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued to individuals in the Bath area:

2008 – No information held
2009 – No information held
2010 – 1 FPN
2011 – 2 FPNs
2012 – No information held
2013 – 4 FPNs
2014 – 4 FPNs
2015 – 1 FPN
2016 – 6 FPNs, 1 CPN. Included two prosecutions:
2017 – 3 FPNs, 1 CPN breach