

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Title</b>   | <b>DANGEROUS DOGS – Yearly Performance - 2014</b> |
| <b>Contact</b> | <b>MOPAC -</b>                                    |

### Key Points

- On 13 May 2014, The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 was amended so that the term “a public place” was substituted to “any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place)”
- Prior to the amendment dog bites and attacks on private property were excluded from the legislation. This main change in the law extends this to cover incidents which take place in/on private property (including homes and gardens). The changes also legislated that attacks on assistance dogs are also an offence
- The marked increase in Dog Attack offences recorded by the MPS clearly replicates this change in legislation and as such, any data preceding this date is non-comparable.
- Between January and December 2014 there were a total of 1,400 offences recorded, representing an average of 177 offences per month. August 2014 experienced the peak during this period with 141 offences
- It is apparent that Croydon and Barnet boroughs recorded the highest volumes; followed by Southwark, Hillingdon and Bromley
- The SD rate and People Proceeded against for dangerous dogs offences have not increased relative to the volume change following the amendment to legislation. In 2014 the SD rate was 17% (compared to 21% in 2013). PPA in 2014 was 292 compared to 199 in 2013
- Seizures in the current financial year (with one quarter remaining) is almost at the same level as the complete FY of 2008/09
- In total there were 867 seizures across the MPD during 2014, with the peak in this activity being June when 114 dogs were seized.
- Enfield had the highest number of seizures during 2014 , followed by Lewisham.
- 2014 the largest proportion of dogs seized were those within the specific breeds of fighting dogs named in the legislation
- In total 308 dogs were disposed of throughout the year

## Offences

### **Dangerous Dogs offences include the following crime classifications:**

008/21 - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person;

008/22 - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person;

111/18 - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place - no injury;

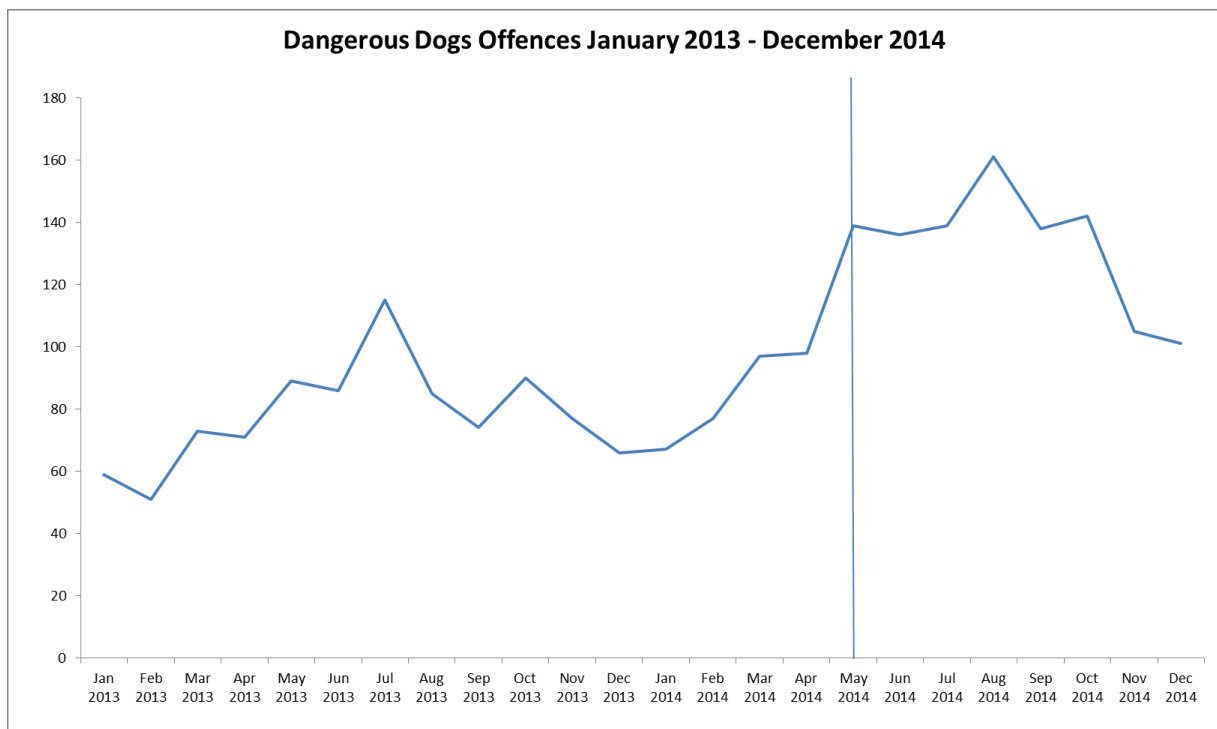
111/19 - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury.

(Note: Classifications 111/18 and 111/19 are non-notifiable offences and hence there is no requirement for them to be recorded)

In 2014 there were 1,400 recorded Dangerous Dogs related offences across the 32 boroughs. On 13 May 2014, *The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991* was amended so that the term “a public place” was substituted to “any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place)”<sup>1</sup>.

Prior to the amendment dog bites and attacks on private property were excluded from the legislation. This main change in the law extends this to cover incidents which take place in/on private property (including homes and gardens). The changes also legislated that attacks on assistance dogs would also be an offence.

The marked increase in Dangerous Dog offences (50% compared to 2013) clearly reflects this change in legislation and as such, no comparison can be made between 2014 and 2013 recorded offence volumes.

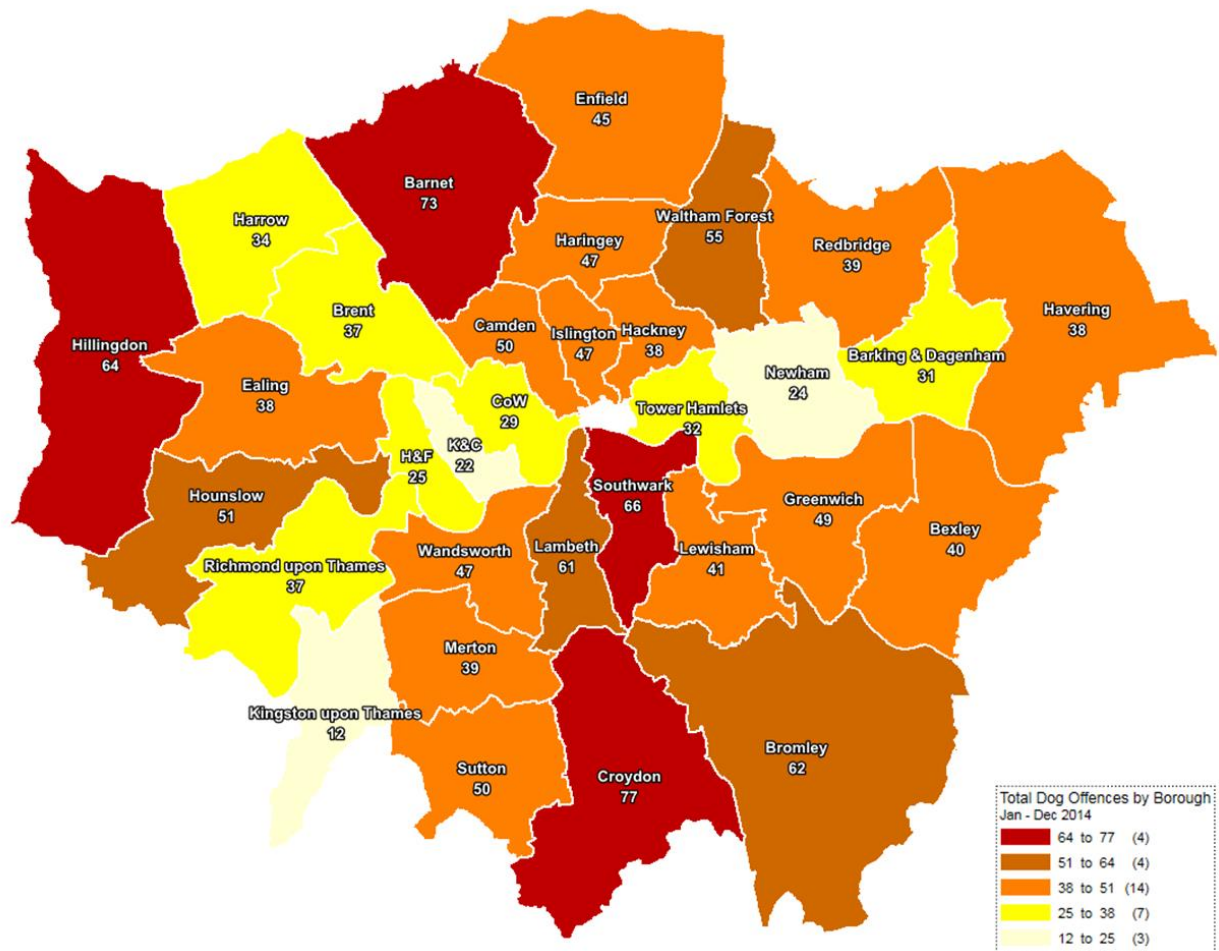


**Fig 1: Offence volumes January 2013 – December 2014 (marker indicates change in legislation)**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/part/7/enacted>

## NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

During 2014 the average number of offences prior to the legislation change was 84 per month, with offending levels from May to December averaging 132 offences per month.



**Fig 2: Offence volumes January 2013 – December 2014 by borough**

The above map illustrates the concentration of offences by borough for Calendar Year 2014. It is apparent that Croydon (77), Barnet (73), Southwark (66), Hillingdon (64) and Bromley (62) recorded the most offences during the year. Kingston upon Thames recorded the lowest volume of offences with 12 recorded across the whole year.

## Sanction Detections & People proceeded against

|     | 2013 | 2014 |
|-----|------|------|
| Jan | 18   | 16   |
| Feb | 9    | 9    |
| Mar | 15   | 10   |
| Apr | 5    | 17   |
| May | 22   | 20   |
| Jun | 16   | 15   |
| Jul | 28   | 28   |
| Aug | 17   | 16   |
| Sep | 16   | 26   |
| Oct | 19   | 21   |
| Nov | 17   | 32   |
| Dec | 17   | 23   |

Although the offence levels for 2014 cannot be compared to those in 2013, the detections in both years are of similar levels. With the increase in offence volumes in 2014, there has not been a relative increase in detections.

During 2013 there was an SD rate of 21%, whereas during 2014 this was 17%.

**Fig3: SDs 2014**

|     | 2013 | 2014 |
|-----|------|------|
| Jan | 17   | 15   |
| Feb | 9    | 8    |
| Mar | 14   | 10   |
| Apr | 5    | 20   |
| May | 20   | 20   |
| Jun | 14   | 16   |
| Jul | 31   | 25   |
| Aug | 16   | 16   |
| Sep | 17   | 25   |
| Oct | 19   | 22   |
| Nov | 20   | 31   |
| Dec | 17   | 24   |

Similarly to the level of detections, the number of people proceeded against in 2014 did not increase in relation to the number of offences. In 2013 there were 199 people proceeded against in relation to 936 offences. In 2014 this was 232 in relation to 1,400 offences.

**Fig4: PPA 2014**

## Seizures

### Yearly Comparison (Financial Years)

| Dangerous Dog seizures | Total seizures |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Apr 02 - Mar 03        | 51             |
| Apr 03 - Mar 04        | 44             |
| Apr 04 - Mar 05        | 38             |
| Apr 05 - Mar 06        | 35             |
| Apr 06 - Mar 07        | 173            |
| Apr 07 - Mar 08        | 481            |
| Apr 08 - Mar 09        | 719            |
| Apr 09 - Mar 10        | 1152           |
| Apr 10 - Mar 11        | 1072           |
| Apr 11 - Mar 12        | 951            |
| Apr 12 - Mar 13        | 955            |
| Apr 13 - Mar 14        | 853            |
| Apr 14 - Dec 14        | 716            |

The table shows the number of seizures for the last 12 financial years, with the current FY included (to December). It is notable that the level of seizures in the current financial year (with one quarter remaining) is almost at the same level as the complete FY of 2008/09.

Fig5: Seizure FY

### Monthly seizures

The chart below compares the total number of dangerous dogs' seizures by month across the MPS for CY 2014:

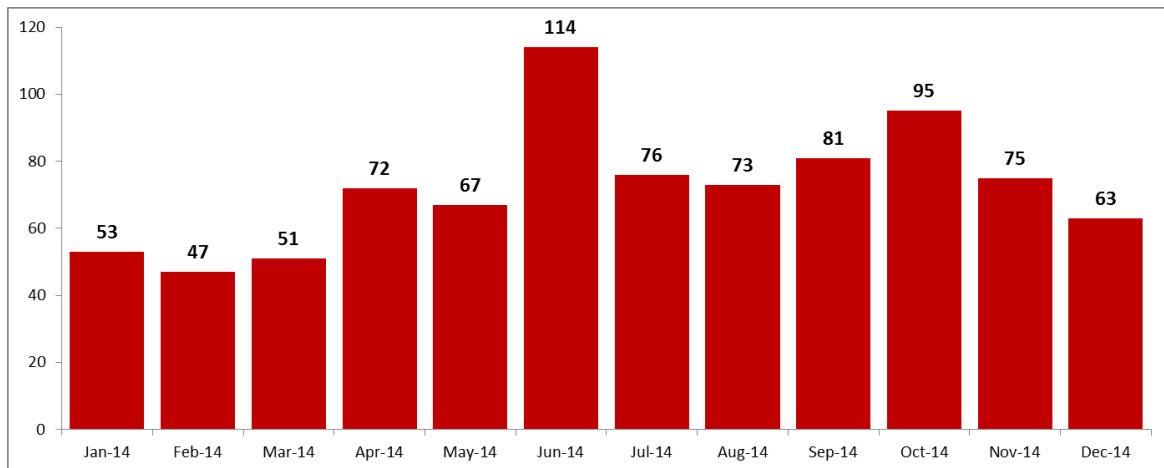


Fig6: Seizures by month 2014

In total there were 867 seizures across the MPD during 2014, with the peak in this activity being June when 114 dogs were seized.

## Seizures by borough

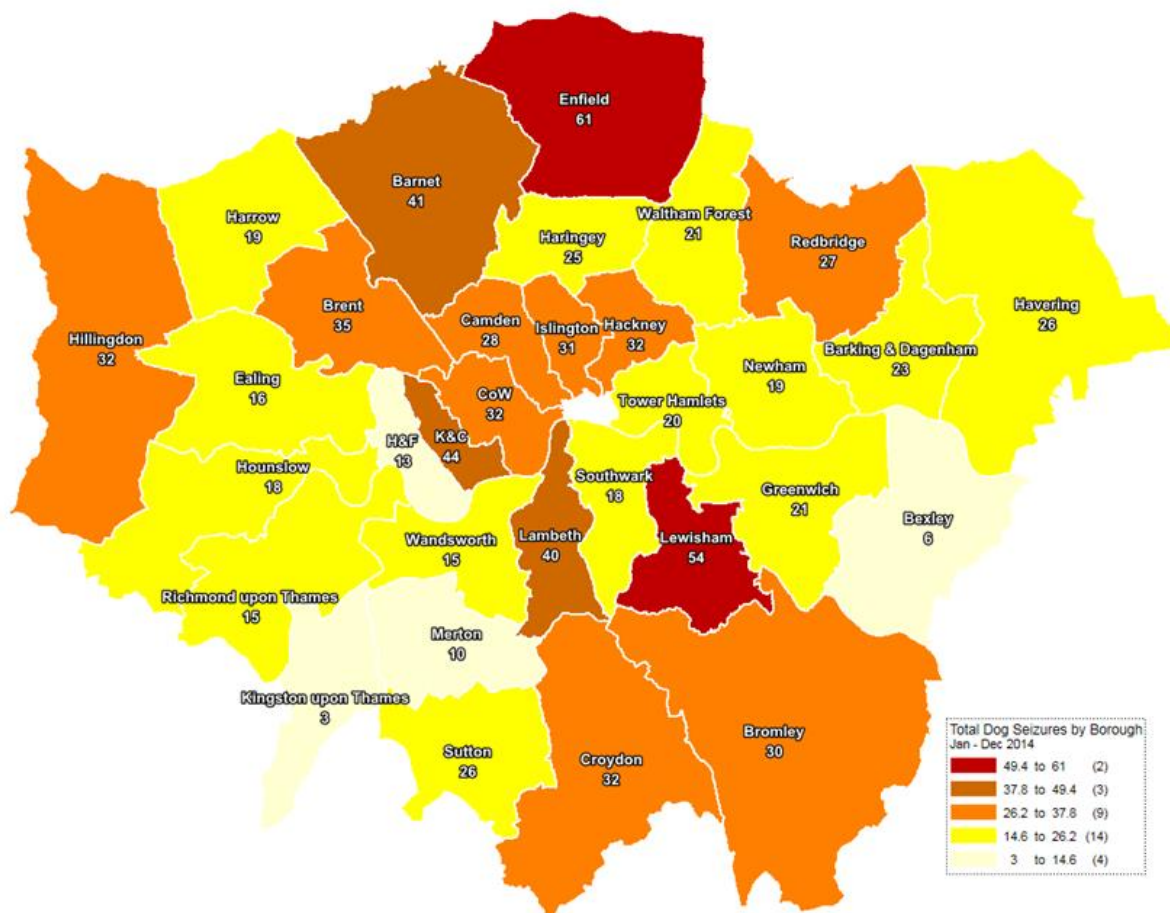


Fig7: Seizures by borough January – December 2014

The map illustrates the geographic concentration of the seizures of dangerous dogs across London for the CY 2014. It must be noted that during the year there were 34 seizures that were not attributed to any borough so these are not included above.

Enfield had the highest number of seizures during 2014 (61), followed by Lewisham (54). As with offence volume, Kingston upon Thames had the least dangerous dogs seized. During 2014 there were only three seizures recorded.

## Type of dangerous dogs seized

This section relates to the following dogs as referenced in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991:

- **Section 1** – it is prohibited by law to own any of the following breeds of dog: Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Arentino, Pit Bull Terrier
- **Section 3** – Any other breed of dog that caused injury or apprehension of injury in a public or private place

| Type                            | Total Seized |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Total S1                        | 383          |
| Total S3                        | 224          |
| Other e.g cruelty prisoners etc | 260          |

Fig8: Seizures by dog types (section 1 and 3)

As can be seen, during 2014 the largest proportion of dogs seized were those within the specific breeds of fighting dogs named in the legislation (44%).

## Disposals

In the calendar year 2014, there were 308 dangerous dogs were disposed of and 533 restorations. The most common type of disposal was "Put to sleep other reasons" and the most common restoration was "Re-homed".

| Dogs Disposed of          | Total | Dogs Restored                       | Total |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Destroyed on Court Order  | 34    | Re-homed                            | 122   |
| Destroyed on Disclaimer   | 95    | Examined - not pitbull              | 39    |
| Destroyed CDO out of time | 30    | Registered PBT- commuted offence    | 31    |
| Died                      | 8     | Restored by Court (e.g unmuzzled)   | 2     |
| PTS other reasons         | 141   | 4A order post conviction (S1)       | 43    |
|                           |       | 4A order post conviction (S3)       | 61    |
|                           |       | 4B Approved                         | 63    |
|                           |       | CPS refuse to charge or NFA         | 64    |
|                           |       | S2 Dogs Act 1871                    | 14    |
|                           |       | Found not guilty S1                 | 3     |
|                           |       | Found not guilty S3                 | 13    |
|                           |       | Prisoners property rehomed/restored | 54    |
|                           |       | S3 restored by court no order made  | 9     |
|                           |       | Stray                               | 4     |
|                           |       | Formal Caution                      | 11    |

**Fig9: Disposals and restorations 2014**