

29 December 2008

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/11/2008, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 27/11/2008, for the following information:

Section E: Prevalence (at school)

- 1. What types of offensive weapons have been seized from children in schools? Table E.01**
- 2. What disciplinary action has been taken by the schools which have been recorded on the policing systems? Table E.02**
- 3. Age range of the students with the offensive weapons at schools Table E.03**

Question 1, 2 & 3. Greater Manchester does not hold the requested information in an easily retrievable format, the cost of determining if the information is held, locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and appropriate limit) Regulations 2004. Please see below:

The fee payable totals **£19,375** and is calculated as follows:

Prescribed costs (i.e. searching for and providing the information)	A Total of 793 hours – 18hours allowed time = 775 hours @ £25.00 hr = £19.375
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In order to supply the requested information the Crime Recording System would need to be searched and the only way of determining if this information is held would be to manually view each and every crime.

Not only would this process be extremely time consuming, which would clearly be exceeding the cost threshold in this case, but there would be no guarantee of accuracy due to the number of records which would have to be viewed.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing down the search parameters, for example, choosing a specific offence or crime category for a specific division or policing area for one (1) week, thereby significantly reducing the number of records that would need to be manually searched to retrieve the information you are requesting.

You have three months to pay this fee; the 20 working day timescale for providing the information you request is suspended until Greater Manchester Police receives payment from you. Importantly, if you do not send your notice or payment by your request for information will be taken to have been withdrawn.

On receipt of this fee I will process your request and the remaining time within the 20 working day timescale will be used to prepare a response.

Payment must be made in pounds sterling – please do not send cash through the post. Cheques should be made payable to Greater Manchester Police.

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Team