

**Information Management Section  
Criminal Justice Division**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Dear XXXX

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/04/2006, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 20/03/2006. I note you seek access to the following information:

- **General Gun Crime Statistics for the UK from 1996 - 2006.**
- **The number of offences committed by people under the age of 18.**
- **Please identify which where airguns and which were replicas.**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Greater Manchester Police do not hold general gun crime statistics for the UK but only hold statistic for the Greater Manchester area. However, these statistics are published by the Home Office. Please find below some useful links:

- <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs1.html> (General Crime Statistics - including Gun Crime)
- <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0206.pdf> (Violent Crime, Homicide and Gun Crime Stats.)

Gun crime statistics ('Firearms Act Offences') specifically relating to the Greater Manchester area can also be found in the 'Chief Constable's Annual Report Statistics' published on our GMP website at the following link:

- <http://www.gmp.police.uk/mainsite/pages//annualreport.htm>

The number of 'Firearms Acts Offences' involving young people under the age of 18 are not published within these statistics so I have provided them to you as follows:

<b>2006 (to date)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>28</b>

Please note, GMP do not have any recorded statistics for 1996 and 1997.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide information relating to the weapon used in each offence. This would involve accessing each individual crime report (211 in total) and locating the relevant information. The cost in complying with the request, in conjunction with the time spent on producing the above statistics, would exceed the appropriate limit set (over 18 hours of work) and result in this information being exempt under *Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000*.

#### Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

Yours Sincerely,