

**Information Governance Unit
Information Management Branch**

26 November 2008

Dear XXXX,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/10/2008, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 28/10/2008, for the following information:

- [a] How many penalty notices have PCSOs employed by your force issued in the one year [12 months] period up to 31 March 2008, i.e. April 1 2007 to March 31 2008.
- [b] In that same one year period how many reported crimes have been detected by your force PCSOs in your force area.
- [d] Of the detected crimes, please provide details of the different categories of offence, and number of crimes, ie numbers of burglaries, anti social behaviour, car crime, etc, or whatever categories recorded by your force. If time/expense becomes an issue with this Fol request, please answer the first two questions (a and b) first.

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

Result Of Searches

Question (a). The number of penalty notices issued by PCSOs for the requested period was 387.

Question (b) and (c). Greater Manchester does not hold this 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. It is estimated that it would cost more than £450 to comply with your request. In order to supply the requested information in question (b) and (c) a total of 72,243 detected crimes for the requested period would need to be manually searched.

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. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this part of your request is refused.

Furthermore, police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Complaint Rights

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

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact me, on telephone number 0161 856 2528 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Team