



[REDACTED]

Date: 4th April 2023
Our ref: GSA 1675/23

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 1675/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/03/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding crimes related to harassment offences that occurred WITHIN Virtual Reality (VR) environments/platforms. [REDACTED]

Specifically, I would like to request the following information. In your force, between 1st January 2018 and the 28th March 2023 (1913 days), ...

- *How many crime reports (overall) have been recorded whereby the victim was subjected to any form of harassment, alarm, or distress (including any racial, sexual, religious, or related aggravating factors)) whilst within a Virtual Reality environment/platform?*
- *How many crime reports have been recorded whereby the victim was subjected to either a S4, S4A or S5 Public Order Act 1986 offence (fear, harassment, alarm, or distress (including any racial, sexual, religious, or related aggravating factors)) whilst within a Virtual Reality environment/platform?*
- *How many crime reports have been recorded and dealt with under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, whereby the victim was subjected to fear, harassment, alarm, or distress (including any racial, sexual, religious, or related aggravating factors) whilst within a Virtual Reality environment/platform?*
- *How many crime reports have been recorded and dealt with under the Communications Act 2003, whereby the victim was subjected to fear, harassment, alarm, or distress (including any racial, sexual, religious, or related aggravating factors)) whilst within a Virtual Reality environment/platform?*
- *How many crime reports have been recorded and dealt with under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, whereby the victim was subjected to fear, harassment, alarm, or distress (including any racial, sexual, religious, or related aggravating factors)) whilst within a*

Virtual Reality environment/platform?

- ***How many crime reports have been recorded and dealt with under another legislation (not listed above), whereby the victim was subjected to fear, harassment, alarm, or distress (including any racial, sexual, religious, or related aggravating factors)) whilst within a Virtual Reality environment/platform? Please mention the legislation used.***
- ***How many of these reports were dealt with whereby a suspect was identified?***
- ***How many of these reports were dealt with whereby a suspect was identified and arrested?***
- ***How many of these reports were dealt with whereby a suspect was identified, arrested, and charged?***
 - o ***What were these suspects finally charged with?***
 - o ***What were the court outcomes?***
 - o ***Are there any further publicly accessible details of these cases that can be shared?***
- ***How many of these reports were dealt with whereby a suspect was not identified?***
- ***How many of these reports were not dealt with due to the lack of knowledge on how to investigate this crime?***
- ***How many of these reports were not dealt with due to the lack of resources (technical capability/legal support (CPS or suitable legislation)/suitable investigator) for this crime?***
- ***How quickly were these reports closed (no further action) due to the above two factors (lack of knowledge/lack of resources)?, and finally***
- ***In a table form, please list the demographic information of the victims and perpetrators, including age, gender, and any other relevant details that may be available.***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is not held by GMP.

GMP ran a search of the following Home Office Crime Codes: 125/09 (Causing Intentional Harassment, Alarm, Distress), 125/12 (Harassment, Alarm, Distress), and 195/94 (Harassment) that were recorded between 01/01/2018 and 28/03/2023 inclusive. In order to identify which offences occurred within a virtual reality environment/platform, the words 'virtual reality' were used on the 'crime description' and 'MO description' fields.

This returned 0 results and therefore there is no information to be shared.

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[REDACTED]