

Our ref: GSA 1273/23  
Please quote our reference  
number when responding

Monday, 03 April 2023

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 1273/23**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/03/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The number of reports of crimes involving online computer games in the past five calendar years, including updated data recorded in the 2022/23 calendar year - broken down by calendar year*
- 2. The category of offence under which the report was logged - for example sexual activity of a child under 13*
- 3. Details of each alleged crime including the age and sex of the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) and the name of the game on which the alleged offence took place*
- 4. The number of arrests and charges in the last five calendar years to the present day - broken down year on year*

Clarification received on 08/03/2023

*Can you please use the following key words:*

*Roblox, Fortnite, World of Warcraft, Clash of Clans, Minecraft and FIFA.*

**Result of Searches**

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to provide all of it as an exemption applies.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 3 data has not been provided as this information would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual concerned, and as such the exemption in **Section 40(2) – Personal information** applies to that data.

In accordance with the Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for that particular piece of information.

Please find the remainder of the data requested below

### **Caveats**

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 where the MO text (draft) or MO text (final) contains ROBLOX, FORTNITE, WORLD OF WARCRAFT, CLASH OF CLANS, MINECRAFT or FIFA, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Please note:
  - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
  - The data only indicates the number of records for the appearance of the keywords in the text fields
- Crime tree level 4 have been provided for question 2. Some offences may only be available for part of this time period i.e. they may have started or stopped being used during this period.
- The suspect outcome has been provided for question 4.2 - Charges.

### Response

#### 1. Total of 145

| Year | Volume |
|------|--------|
| 2018 | 19     |
| 2019 | 18     |
| 2020 | 27     |
| 2021 | 27     |
| 2022 | 37     |
| 2023 | 17     |

2. Please see below

| Crime tree level four                | Volume     |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| All other theft offences             | 10         |
| Criminal damage and arson offences   | 2          |
| Miscellaneous crimes against society | 10         |
| Other sexual offences                | 42         |
| Public order offences                | 6          |
| Rape                                 | 1          |
| Residential burglary                 | 4          |
| Shoplifting                          | 1          |
| Stalking and harassment              | 43         |
| Violence with injury                 | 5          |
| Violence without injury              | 21         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>145</b> |

3. Exempt as above

4.

4.1 Arrests - NIL return. That does not mean that no one was arrested for these offences, it means that the suggested keywords were not used in the arrest circumstances when the detainee was being booked into custody.

4.2 Charges data included Suspect outcome of 1 Charged/Summoned and 1A Charged/Summoned Alternative Offence

- 1 – 2018 and 4 - 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]