



Date: 07/08/2023

Our ref: 01/FOI/23/007829/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/007829/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/07/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1) *How many pupils have been caught carrying a bladed weapon in primary school in Greater Manchester in each of the years April 2020-March 2021; April 2021-March 2022 and April 2022-March 2023?*
- 2) *How many pupils have been caught carrying a bladed weapon in secondary school in Greater Manchester in each of the years April 2020-March 2021; April 2021-March 2022 and April 2022-March 2023?*
- 3) *How many pupils have been caught carrying a bladed weapon in sixth form/college in Greater Manchester in each of the years April 2020-March 2021; April 2021-March 2022 and April 2022-March 2023?*
- 4) *Please specify the ages of the pupils and the kind of bladed weapon each was found to be carrying.*
- 5) *Please also specify the name of the school in which the pupil was found to be carrying a bladed weapon.*

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 held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide a response to questions 1, 2 and 3 would require each individual crime to be manually reviewed to determine the location of the crime i.e. was it a primary school, Secondary school or a sixth form/college. This review would also be needed to filter down to show if the location was specifically on educational premises or the street address as the named location. A search of GMPs records show a

total 325 crimes relating to blades in/at an educational setting for the time period requested and as such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

Therefore, as per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced, for example GMP may be able to provide a response to questions 1, 2 and 3 if the time period was reduced, or if the request was revised to ask for totals of each HO codes reported:

- 008/27 Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises.
- 008/62 Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises.

and eliminating the location altogether. Moreover, we would not be able to determine the "type of blade" used. We would also advise revising Q4 to suspect age range and not pupil's age.

The resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk