



Date: 14/08/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011056/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011056/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/07/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1) The number of reports which contain both the word 'blade or point on school premises' where the suspect was under 18. Please provide figures for the 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years (1 September to 31 July), broken down by age of suspect, local authority area and the name of the school (unless the name of the school is exempt from release). If that's not possible because of time/cost restraints - please provide as much data as possible counting back from 2022/23.

2) Details of the weapon involved in each report - ie knife, screwdriver etc

3) Details of any other crime that accompanied the 'blade or point on school premises' - for example ABH, GBH, wounding with intent.

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, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the level of breakdown requested for Q1 would require a manual search of all reported crimes under the relevant HO codes. We would then need to breakdown the figures for age, local authority, and location. After searching, we have located over 400 crimes and as such it is anticipated the manual searches that will be required to gather the information needed would take over 18hrs work to provide an outcome.

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 amending, specifically for question 1. If you remove the breakdown totals request for age, location etc and just ask for the total reported crimes under specific HO codes, then we may be able to accommodate this request. The HO codes are

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

In addition, for Q2 by providing your own list of keywords you wish us to search for, may also provide some data to report back with. This may help if you asked for totals of your listed keywords as oppose to an individual report breakdown. It may also help if Q3 was removed altogether. However, 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