



Date: 14/08/2023

Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011134/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011134/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/08/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of homicide or attempted murder investigation reports, since 2018, which make reference to a suspect being under the influence of drugs at the time of offence, broken down by year.***
- 2. The number of these reports which references a suspect being under the influence of 'cannabis' or 'skunk' or 'skunkweed' at the time of offence, broken down by year.***
- 3. Examples of homicide or attempted murder investigation reports (redacted as necessary) which references a suspect being under the influence of 'skunk' over the past 12 months.***
- 4. Any internal or external notes shared by the force within the past 12 months which references 'skunk' in relation to homicide investigations.***

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. In order for us to obtain information prior to 2019 we would need to manually review the homicides crimes recorded between 01/01/2018 – 31/03/2019 (total of 74 crimes) and attempted murder crimes recorded between 01/01/2018 and 07/08/2022 inclusive (total of 410 crimes). I have estimated this would take 15 minutes per log (121 hours for the 484 crimes).

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 amended, for example in order to be able to respond to Q1 we would advise removing the attempted murder category and just seek data for homicides. At the same time reducing the period of data you require from 2019 onwards. For Q2, we would suggest removing the request to know the type of drug and replacing the question with whether the suspect was under the influence of illicit drugs at the time of the offence. It may be beneficial to remove Q3 in its entirety. 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.