

[REDACTED]

Our ref: GSA 1115/23
Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 27 March 2023

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 1115/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/02/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

I'm contacting you to request information about offences relating to ketamine possession in your area of operations.

- 1. The number of offences relating to ketamine possession between 2012 and 2023, broken down by year.*
- 2. The number of offences relating to ketamine distribution between 2012 and 2023, broken down by year.*

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 apply.

2023 Data - The exemption that applies to this data is

- **Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities**

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the 2023 data that could be from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

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

- The data provided for this request is based on a search of all offences under the offence categories 'Possession of Drugs' and 'Trafficking of Drugs' recorded between 01/01/2012 and 31/12/2022 inclusive. The raw data has then been filtered by two methods:

- Offences relating specifically to ketamine:
 - Home Office Code 093/78 – Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Supply – Ketamine
 - Home Office Code 093/66 – Supplying or Offering to Supply a Controlled Drug – Ketamine
 - Home Office Code 093/72 – Possession of a Controlled Drug – Ketamine
- As Ketamine is a Class B drug, a keyword search of 'ketamine' was done on the 'Crime Description' field of the below offences:
 - Home Office Code 092/85 – Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Supply – Class B
 - Home Office Code 092/45 – Supplying or Offering to Supply a Controlled Drug – Class B
 - Home Office Code 092/65 – Having Possession of a Controlled Drug – Class B
 - Home Office Code 092/04 – Unlawful Importation of a Drug Controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – Class B
- The data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.

Response

Question 1 - Offences relating to ketamine possession:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	9	8	11	2	4	4	6	17	12	16	28

Question 2 - Offences relating to ketamine distribution:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	15	9	8





[REDACTED]

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