

[REDACTED]

Our ref: GSA 791/23
Please quote our reference
number when responding

Tuesday, 07 March 2023

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 791/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/02/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *The number of under-18s arrested by your police force for drug offences involving cannabis edibles or gummies, year-by-year, from 1 January 2021 to 31 January 2023*
2. *The total number of arrests by your police force for drug offences involving cannabis edibles or gummies, year-by-year, from 1 January 2021 to 31 January 2023*

If you cannot distinguish between cannabis-related arrests and cannabis edibles-related arrests within the cost limit, please could you instead provide:

3. *The number of under-18s arrested by your police force for cannabis offences, year-by-year, from 1 January 2021 to 31 January 2023*
4. *The total number of arrests by your police force for cannabis offences, year-by-year, from 1 January 2021 to 31 January 2023*

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Our system does not allow for searching of specific offences, rather categories of offence on custody records. The category which appears to be used in most instances of offences involving cannabis is 'Drugs-Offence'. When running a search with the keyword 'Drugs – Offence' it returned 10,031 results. The issue with this search is that this will include offences for all different kinds of drugs and is not specific to cannabis. We need to manual review all of

the records to identify arrests related to cannabis. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours 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 shouldn't be specific to cannabis. 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.

Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, please email FreedomOfInformation@gmp.police.uk quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require Greater Manchester Police to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again –

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of Greater Manchester Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a complaint with Greater Manchester Police to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

Information Compliance & Records Management Unit Manager
Information Management Branch
Greater Manchester Police
Openshaw Complex
Lawton Street
Openshaw
Manchester
M11 2NS

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with Greater Manchester Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you can make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk. Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545 700