



Date: 07/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011361/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011361/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/09/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting information on cases referred to in the media recently of abortions performed beyond the legal limit, and any similar cases. I would request the information be formatted in a spreadsheet with the various columns denoting the information sought and/or via any sufficiently redacted reports.

Specifically, I am requesting information on any reports of illegal abortion, coercing/forcing a miscarriage, or similar, and the method of doing so.

I request that the number of incidents/reports for the last decade (2012-now) be broken down by suspect (e.g. the pregnant woman and/or third party(ies) such as a boyfriend, random attacker etc.), and alongside this, request the following be specifically denoted: the method of miscarriage/abortion (e.g. instruments, physical assault, women deliberately injuring themselves, etc.

If pills were used, please denote the provider they were obtained from and if obtained after a telemedicine consultation or in person consultation); gestation of the pregnancy, and the final outcome of each report (e.g. if applicable please disclose whether there was a guilty plea, prosecution / trial, conviction, and any sentence, or if it was determined it was a miscarriage and a woman was wrongfully investigated, etc.).

Also broken down by suspect please denote the total number of arrests and total number of charges and under what legislation each arrest occurred / charge was brought (most likely HOC 14: Procuring illegal abortion; HOC 15: Concealing infant death close to birth; HOC 4/03 Child destruction, but could be under other legislation related to battery, grievous bodily harm, poisoning, etc.).

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 that some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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. Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.

Reply

As there are a lot of points to this question, I have broken it down into sections for ease of answering.

1) Specifically, I am requesting information on any reports of illegal abortion, coercing/forcing a miscarriage, or similar, and the method of doing so.

The following is all offences recorded under the Home Office Crime Categories 'Procuring Illegal Abortion' and 'Child Destruction' recorded between 01/01/2012 – 31/08/2023 inclusive.

Offence Type	Count of Crimes
Procuring Illegal Abortion	2
Child Destruction	7

2) I request that the number of incidents/reports for the last decade (2012-now) be broken down by suspect (e.g. the pregnant woman and/or third party(ies) such as a boyfriend, random attacker etc.).

Offender Type	Count of Crimes
Pregnant Female	2
Boyfriend/Husband	4
Unknown/No Suspect Identified	3

3) The method of miscarriage/abortion (e.g. instruments, physical assault, women deliberately injuring themselves, etc).

Method	Count of Crimes
Drug Overdose	1
Physical Assault	4

Object/Instrument	3
Unknown	1

- 4) If pills were used, please denote the provider they were obtained from and if obtained after a telemedicine consultation or in person consultation).

This information is not held by GMP.

- 5) Gestation of the pregnancy.

Gestation Period	Count of Crimes
0 – 3 Months	1
3 – 6 Months	1
6 – 9 Months	1
Unknown	6

- 6) The final outcome of each report (e.g. if applicable please disclose whether there was a guilty plea, prosecution / trial, conviction, and any sentence, or if it was determined it was a miscarriage and a woman was wrongfully investigated, etc.).

Conviction data is not held by GMP. Please contact His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service for this information.

Police Outcome	Count of Crimes
Charge (1A)	1
Charged Alternative Offence (1C)	1
Investigation Complete - No Suspect Identified (18)	3
Offender Has Died (5)	1
Prosecution Not in Public Interest (Police) (10)	1
Suspect Identified - Victim Does Not Support (16)	2

- 7) Also broken down by suspect please denote the total number of arrests and total number of charges and under what legislation each arrest occurred / charge was brought (most likely HOC 14: Procuring illegal abortion; HOC 15: Concealing infant death close to birth; HOC 4/03 Child destruction, but could be under other legislation related to battery, grievous bodily harm, poisoning, etc.).

There have been 9 arrests matching your specified circumstances.

- 6 for S47 Assault
- 1 for Procure Miscarriage of a woman by poison/instrument
- 1 for Wound/inflict grievous bodily harm without intent
- 1 for S18 Assault

Of those, 2 were charged with S47 Assault.