



Date: 27/10/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011365/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011365/I

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 writing to submit a formal Freedom of Information Act request to obtain information regarding payments made by police forces to telecom and social media firms for customer information between the years 2018 and 2023.

- 1. The total amount of money paid to telecoms firms (including the names of these firms) for call data and personal details of their customers during the specified period (2018-2023).*
- 2. A breakdown of these payments by year, indicating the amount paid to telecoms firms for each year within the requested time frame.*
- 3. Information on the specific types of customer information (e.g., call records, personal details) that were acquired from the telecoms firms.*
- 4. The total amount of money paid to social media firms (including the names of these firms) for data and/or details of their customers during the specified period (2018-2023).*
- 5. A breakdown of these payments by year, indicating the amount paid to social media firms for each year within the requested time frame.*
- 6. Information on the specific types of customer information (e.g., call records, personal details) that were acquired from the social media firms.*

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 data requested would involve a manual search of payments in our financial records to establish which ones meet your criteria.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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