

Date: 14/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011425/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011425/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of pupils aged 18 and under found in possession of offensive weapons such as knives, pellet guns, hammers etc on school premises (nursery, primary and secondary) in the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so far.*
- 2. The above information should be broken down by date/month of incident, age of pupil, and description of the weapon.*
- 3. It should also include what the police response was (arrest, warning etc), and whether the weapon was used to commit another crime, such as assault against a pupil or teacher.*

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 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 all crimes recorded under the following Home Office offence codes:

- *008/27 Having an article with a blade or point on school or further education premises.*
- *008/28 Possession of other offensive weapon on school or further education premises without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.*
- *008/62 Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school or further education premises.*
- *008/63 Threaten with an offensive weapon on school or further education premises.*

A search of our records show that in your requested timeframe there were 129 such crimes. A manual review would be required to establish which of those crimes were committed by pupils and the description of the weapon. A further manual review of the individual's personal record would also have to take place in order to answer question 3 of your request. At a very conservative estimate of 10 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 20 hours to ascertain the data required.

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