

Date: 16/10/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011392/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011392/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/09/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Anabolic steroids, also known as anabolic-androgenic steroids, are synthetic substances that mimic the effects of testosterone, the male sex hormone. I am looking for information regarding the number of people who have been arrested who misuse anabolic steroids.

1. The number of people arrested who have been found to use anabolic steroids from 2018 – 2023?

For ease of collation could you please provide the information in the table below.

<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>The number of people arrested who have been found to use anabolic steroids?</i>					

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

Your request for *arrests found to use anabolic steroids* would not be recorded as the arrest offence, instead it would be a generic arrest for drugs that would be recorded on the custody records. There would be 10s of thousands of results that fall under this, and for a response to be provided to this request it would require a manual search of each record to determine if it was relevant. As such it is anticipated that it would take over 18hrs to provide a response.

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 will need to include a much shorter timer frame, and it may be worth removing the question around arrests and asking for any incidents that contain the words Anabolic steroids. 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.