



Date: 28/09/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011330/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011330/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/09/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

For each of the last five financial years, can you tell me:

- 1) *How many people were arrested for possession of the controlled drug ketamine?*
- 2) *How many people were arrested for supplying or offering to supply the controlled drug ketamine?*
- 3) *How many people were arrested for possessing the controlled drug ketamine with intent to supply?*

And for each of those categories, are you able to break down the numbers to separate adults and under 18s, under 16s, and under 12s.

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.

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 all custody records of people arrested for possession or supply of a class B drug. This would include other class B drugs, not just ketamine. A manual review of each record would be required to determine which were arrests related to ketamine.

A search of our custody records shows that there were over a thousand such arrests in the last 5 years. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 80 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