



Date: 13/09/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011249/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011249/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/08/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

For the six month period January-June 2023 please provide the following information for your police force area:

- 1. The number of individuals arrested and charged with criminal offences who have raised the statutory defence under section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act broken down as follows:
(a) adults (aged 18 years and over); and
(b) children and young people (aged 17 years and under)***
- 2. The number of individuals (a) arrested and (b) charged for offences under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 on an all offence basis where the offending conduct involves 'criminal exploitation' (ie where the victim has been exploited to commit criminal activity)***
- 3. The number of investigations into illegal cultivation of cannabis, and of these how many also included investigation for the following:
(a) illegal abstraction of electricity,
(b) modern slavery
(c) violent offences such as assault
(d) offences relating to possession of a weapon***
- 4. The number of individuals arrested for possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply aged (a) 18-25 years, (b) 16-17 years, (c) 12-15 years, (d) 11 years and under***

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 arrest data for Questions 1, 2 and Q4 would require the need for us to interrogate various systems to collate this information. Once the information has been collated, we would then need to manually review through the data to establish if the information was

relevant to this request. There are no tools on our recording systems for arrest data to specifically search for what defences were raised by a defendant and for specific offences such as criminal exploitation. Moreover, on Q4 - the majority of arrests for drug offences are recorded as Drug Offence however this includes drug driving and again this cannot be identified without manual trawl on all relevant records. As such it is anticipated it would take over 18hrs work to provide this information.

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 feature a reduced request. I was suggest submitting Q3 only. However, 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.