



Date: 09/08/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011175/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011175/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/08/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Over the last 10 years, how many reports of cyberstalking have Greater Manchester Police received?

How many perpetrators have been charged with offences relating to cyberstalking?

How many cases have involved the use of smart devices to facilitate stalking, primarily Amazon Alexa and Google Home devices?

Please could this information be broken down annually in calendar years in a table format, with a column for each year from 2013 - 2023.

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.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes under the crime tree level 4 stalking and harassment and crimes under the below offence, with a created date between 1st January 2013 and 31st August 2023, where the online flag and/or cyber flag is equal to Yes, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. The online crime flag and the cybercrime flag are not mandatory and may not be completed:

- 008/67 Engage in controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship

This data contains suspects attached to crimes in the crime data with an outcome of Charge. There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime. Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period, which means that the data cannot be used to identify the number of unique suspects.

We performed a keyword search on the data to identify where the Crime Description or the Crime MO Description included the words Alexa or Google Home. The results were reviewed manually to exclude records where the reference was to a named individual rather than the electronic device. The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.

Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.

Reply:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Count of crimes	0	163	1253	3022	4829	5780	4964	6580	11486	11725
Count of charges	0	58	192	252	235	205	139	156	233	335
Count of crimes with 'Alexa' or 'Google Home' smart devices mentioned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2