



Date: 25/09/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011285/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011285/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/09/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *Does your force have a method of recording whether or not a missing person is known to have autism?*
2. *Please could you tell us:*
 - a. *The number of total missing incidents related to those under the age of 18 in your force area in 2022/23*
 - b. *The number of missing incidents related to those under the age of 18 who were autistic in your force area in 2022/23*
3. *Please could you tell us:*
 - c. *The number of total missing incidents related to those over the age of 18 in your force area in 2022/23*
 - d. *The number of missing incidents related to those over the age of 18 who were autistic in your force area in 2022/23*

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 data requested would involve a manual search of all missing person records to establish which ones related to missing persons with autism.

There have been 32,638 reports of missing persons in 2022/23. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 2,000 hours to ascertain the data required. To comply with the whole of your request the process would therefore take over 18 hours work and exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

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 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