

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012968/C

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 29 July 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012968/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/07/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *Between April 2014 and April 2024, how many offences were recorded under section 2a of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997?*
2. *Between April 2014 and April 2024, How many offences were recorded under section 4a of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997?*
3. *Between April 2014 and April 2024, how many offences were recorded under section 2a and later revised to section 4a of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997?*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

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.

- Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.
- 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.

Response

1. To obtain data for this question, we have ran a search for the below offences recorded under Section 2a of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 between 01/04/2014 and 31/03/2024.

Offence	Act Section	Full HO Code
Harassment	Section 2a	195/94
Pursue a Course of Conduct Which Amounts to Stalking	Section 2a	195/12

This search returned the below volumes:

Financial Year	Crimes
2014/15	2,302
2015/16	3,056
2016/17	4,026
2017/18	5,019
2018/19	8,303
2019/20	7,645
2020/21	9,951
2021/22	14,566
2022/23	16,722
2023/24	16,533

2. To obtain data for this question, we have ran a search for the below offences recorded under Section 4a of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 between 01/04/2014 and 31/03/2024.

Offence	Act Section	Full HO Code
Putting People in Fear of Violence	Section 4a	008/30
Stalking Involving Fear of Violence	Section 4a	008/65
Stalking Involving Serious Alarm/Distress	Section 4a	008/66

This search returned the below volumes:

Financial Year	Crimes
2014/15	629
2015/16	608
2016/17	641
2017/18	753
2018/19	916
2019/20	1,444

2020/21	4,584
2021/22	8,245
2022/23	10,064
2023/24	13,368

3. To obtain data for this question, we have ran a search for offences first recorded under Section 2a of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 between 01/04/2014 and 31/03/2024, before being reclassified to Section 4a.

Financial Year	Crimes
2014/15	629
2015/16	608
2016/17	639
2017/18	752
2018/19	886
2019/20	272
2020/21	517
2021/22	467
2022/23	560
2023/24	627