

Date: 30th July 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012996/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/012996/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/07/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Q1 - In the last 10 years how many people have died by suicide whilst under GMP investigation?

Q2 - Out of those who have died by suicide, in the last 10 years while under an investigation by GMP, how many did GMP subsequently close the investigation of and the person would have faced no charges had they not died by suicide?

Q3 - Out of those who have died by suicide in the last 10 years, while under investigation by GMP, how many did GMP register a Recorded Crime Outcome, as in their view there was sufficient evidence to charge the suspect, if they hadn't died by suicide?

Q4 - In the last 10 years, out of the people who died by suicide whilst under investigation by GMP other than

1) closing the investigation with no charges to be brought, had the person lived, or 2) registering a recorded crime outcome to indicate the person would have faced charges had they lived

Has GMP concluded their investigations any other way once the person died and if so how and how many people has this applied too?

Q5 - In the last 10 years out of the people who have died by suicide whilst under investigation by GMP, how many had a mental health condition?

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. However, GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to your request. The search/review would involve a manual trawl of the records where the outcome is 'Offender Died' to establish if the offender's death is suicide related. This is not a mandatory field in our recording system and therefore this information might not be recorded at all. Any data held once the review was conducted may not be accurate to provide under the FOIA. An initial search has been conducted of GMPs records which returned 1,350 offenders on our system with the latest outcome of 'Offender Died'. At a very conservative estimate of 10 minutes per record would take this request to in excess of 225 hours to conduct the review and determine what information, if any, is held relevant to this request.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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 you are requesting will need revising with the removal of Q4. 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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.