

Date: 17/12/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013777/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013777/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/12/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Between the time period January 2023 and August 2024, data on how many days it takes from the initial reporting of child sexual abuse (including viewing of online CSA and CSE images) to case closure (court outcome or no further action) i.e how long does it take from report to court

We would like to know how long these people are out on the streets before any conviction (custodial, suspended sentence or release without charge)

Ideally broken down for each case but the data as an average for the police force area would be good too

Would also be helpful to know if you have any timescales are set by your force that these cases are supposed to be dealt within

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would not be able to complete this FOI without carrying out a substantial manual review across all the closed cases linked to this request. Between the timeframe stated above, GMP has logged over 10,000 offences with the 'child sexual abuse' flag ticked as 'yes'. Of these, 686 are closed and have a 'solved' outcome which means it's likely to have progressed to court. In order to determine the length of time between the crime being recorded and the crime being heard in court, we would need to manually review each case record. At a rate of 5-10 minutes per review this request will far exceed the 18hrs permitted to provide a response.

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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.