



Date: 31/01/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/011897/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/011897/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/01/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm requesting information on the number of reports made to the police over the past two years concerning sexual crimes in virtual reality platforms.

This could include mention of Meta's Quest headsets, the HTC Vive headset, Meta's Horizon platforms, Roblox, VRChat, RecRoom, Oculus Home, or AltspaceVR.

Please breakdown the reports by platform.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

Result of Searches

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

Caveats:

The data for this request is based on a search of the Home Office Offence Categories 'Rape' and 'Other Sexual Offences' recorded between 01/01/2022 and 31/12/2023 inclusive. To identify whether the offence was related to a virtual reality platform, key words were used to search on the 'Crime Description' field. The following key words were used: Virtual Reality, VR, Virtual, Discord, Quest, Vive, Horizon, Meta, Roblox, VRChat, RecRoom, Oculus Home, AltspaceVR. Where the platform is not listed in the below table, this means no crimes were found.

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.

Year	Discord	Oculus	Roblox	Platform Unknown	Grand Total
2022	19	1	6	0	26
2023	22	0	12	1	35
Grand Total	41	1	18	1	61