



Date: 16/02/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012004/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012004/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/01/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide any information regarding Unsolved Missing Persons cases under your constabulary. Your response will help Inform research being conducted for a dissertation by the University of Winchester, specifically investigating variability across police constabularies in the review of unsolved missing persons cases within the United Kingdom. More specifically, I am interested in:

- 1) *How many 'open' or 'inactive'/'cold' missing persons cases are currently under your constabulary? (Inactive meaning at least 1 year old).*
- 2) *What reasons are there as to why missing persons cases are still unsolved? i.e., funding, lack of resources, no new evidence, no body etc.*
- 3) *Are there any policies and procedures that your constabulary uses specifically for 'inactive' missing persons cases? If yes, what are they?*
- 4) *Which individuals are involved in the reviews of 'inactive' missing persons cases? I.e., Review Officer, Senior Investigating Officer, Crime Scene Manager, Forensic Scientist etc.*
- 5) *Does your constabulary work closely with other organisations when reviewing 'inactive' missing persons cases? If so, which organisations? And what do they do to help?*
- 6) *What charities does your constabulary have access to for inactive missing persons cases? If so, what charities? And what do these charities do to help aid a long-term missing person's case review?*

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.

1. GMP currently has 363 dormant missing person cases.
2. All dormant cases have been subject to in depth investigations where sufficient information has been available to permit such enquiries. Cases made dormant are those where all lines of investigation have been completed, there is no new evidence or intelligence and no bodies have been discovered. Some cases made dormant relate to individuals about which little information is known at the time they are reported – for example Adult Asylum Seekers / Undocumented Migrants.
3. The management of dormant cases is laid out the GMP Missing Person Policy and Procedures.
4. Dormant cases are reviewed by a Superintendent before dormancy is approved. Once approved further reviews are conducted by the Missing Person safeguarding Unit.
5. No – such liaison between the police and other agencies would be completed prior to the investigation becoming dormant. GMP are currently investigating the possibility of seeking assistance from The University of Central Lancashire in relation to open-source searches of dormant missing person cases.
6. The charity “Missing People” provide ongoing publicity and family support for some dormant investigations.