

Date: 06/03/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012110/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012110/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/02/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. How many crimes were reported involving zombie knives/zombie-style knives/machetes in the last three years? (Since 2021 - up to and including any data held for 2024)

1a) Of those, how many involved youths (under18)?

Can figures be broken down by year?

2. How many charges/arrests were brought against people selling knives to youths (under18) in the last three years? (Since 2021 - up to and including any data held for 2024).

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 that the information requested is held by GMP.

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

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the arrests log for the time period provided to see if any are relating to question 2 of this request. Due to the large amount of work this would involve it is expected that this request will exceed 18hrs to provide the information requested for question 2.

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.

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 to a much shorter time frame. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

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.

- This data contains crimes with a created/reported date between 1st January 2021 and 8th February 2024 where the crime description or crime MO description contains 'zombie kni', 'zombie-style kni', or 'machete', excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Please note:
 - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
 - The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.
- Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
 - Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
 - The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.
- Please note, where the offender or victim is not known, age cannot be calculated. We can only calculate an age when a date of birth is provided.

Question 1.

Year	Count of Crimes
2021	1011
2022	1231
2023	1249
2024	123

Question 1a.

Year	Count of Crimes where at least 1 victim or offender are under 18
2021	574
2022	654
2023	647
2024	60