

Date: 15/02/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012104/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012104/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/02/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Could you please provide a count for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 of:

- 1. child abductions by a parent (Home Office classification 13/13).***
- 2. child abductions by other persons (Home Office classification 13/2).***
- 3. kidnappings (Home Office classification 36/1) when the victim was aged under 18 at the time of the offence.***
- 4. child abductions where a parent abducted children to 1980 Hague Convention States v non-Hague Convention States***

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 cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf

For question 4 of this request, 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 to establish the country dependant on what had been recorded for the log/ crime. Any data held once the review was conducted may not be accurate to provide under the FOIA. Due to level of work required, to confirm whether the information is held would take over 18 hours.

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.

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.

Response –

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.

1. The crime grand total is all the crimes counted based on the crime reference HO Codes listed (a full list of codes can be found on the 'HO Codes Used' tab for the period 01/01/2019-31/12/2023).
2. The month relates to when the crime was committed and not when the crime was recorded.
3. Where possible duplicates have been removed.
4. The data has been filtered to Victims U18.

Question 1.

013/01	Abduction of a Child by Parent
2019	18
2020	10
2021	13
2022	22
2023	18

Question 2.

013/02	Abduction of a Child by Other Persons
2019	52
2020	49
2021	56
2022	74
2023	77

Question 3.

036/01	Kidnapping - Victim U18
2019	44
2020	29
2021	52
2022	44
2023	45

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