

Date: 28/06/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012820/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012820/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am investigating fingerprint development on leather exhibits recovered from crime scenes.

Please may I request information on the following questions:

- 1. Between the dates September 2019 - May 2024, have you recovered any leather exhibits from crime scenes or the person?***
- 2. If yes to question 1, please provide a breakdown of types of leather exhibits recovered and number per year (clothing - jacket for example; footwear; furniture; weapon sheath - knife, gun, other; animal lead; wallet; belt; handbag).***
- 3. If the leather exhibits were submitted to a Chemical Development (Fingerprint Enhancement) Laboratory, please disclose what fingerprint development methods were used on the leather exhibits and if they were successfully used to visualise fingerprints.***
- 4. Please disclose if the fingerprints on leather exhibits successfully yielded any identifications.***
- 5. If yes to question 4, please provide data as to how many identifications were yielded from leather exhibits.***

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.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the property seized from crime scenes in the last 5 years. For example, we may have filed away a

wallet with the description only as “wallet”. To understand if this wallet was leather, we would have to review the item directly. This would continue for all other items that could be considered to be leather in order to accurately provide you the information you have asked. Under the circumstances I am confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits.

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 and a reduction in the volume of information requested. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.