

Date: 26/06/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012824/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012824/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm keen to gather data where possible around this issue.

Please can you consider this Freedom of Information Act request to find out –

- 1. The number of sextortion complaints your force has received year by year since 2014.*
- 2. The number of successful sextortion convictions.*
- 3. Do you make a note if a complainant has learning disabilities? If you do, how many complainants had a learning disability?*
- 4. Are you under any obligation to make a note of a complainant's learning disability on records detailing allegations of criminal activity.*

Thanks so much for any help you can offer in this area.

The NCA and the NPCC say they are unable to help me with this information and the best approach is to try to find it on a force by force basis.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

For question 3, there is no standard field for recording if a victim has learning difficulties. To accurately provide a response to how many complainants are listed as having a learning disability, each log that relates to this request will need to be reviewed to see if the information has been recorded in some way. Initial searches have brought back over 1500 records and to review each one would take in the region of 125hrs.

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 with the removal of Q3 and a much shorter timeframe. 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 exceeded (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.

Please see below.

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.

- The crime grand total is all the crimes counted based on the crime reference HO Codes on the 'HO Codes Used' tab for the period 01/01/2017-31/05/2024. There is no data prior to 2017 regarding Blackmail & Sextortion.
- The data returned was then searched using the keywords 'Sextortion' in the MO Description.
- The month relates to when the crime was committed and not when the incident was recorded.
- Where possible duplicates have been removed.
- Please note 2019 figures may be impacted by the GMP system change in mid-July 2019.

Question 1.

	Volume of 'Sextortion' Crimes
2014	No Data
2015	No Data
2016	No Data
2017	3
2018	6
2019	4
2020	15
2021	21
2022	144
2023	1118
2024	281

Question 2.

GMP do not hold prosecution or conviction data as this is held by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Please apply directly to HMCTS for such data.