

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012097/G

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Tuesday, 05 March 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012097/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/02/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My request relates to the surge in GPS tracker usage involved in coercive control and stalking cases in 2023. I would like to request the following information:

- 1) Can you please provide me with the total number of coercive control cases AND stalking cases that your police force has dealt with in 2023? Please display the total case numbers for coercive control and stalking separately.*
- 2) Can you also please provide me with the number of cases in 2023 that were dealt with by your police force where GPS tracking was used as a form of coercive control? This could include social media trackers, technology-based trackers, AirTags, trackers on apps etc.*
- 3) Can you also please provide me with the number of cases in 2023 that were dealt with by your police force where GPS tracking was used as a form of stalking? This could include social media trackers, AirTags, technology-based trackers, trackers on apps etc.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

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 provided data for the following Home Office Crime Codes that were recorded between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 inclusive.
 - 008/56 - Racially or Religiously Aggravated Stalking without Violence
 - 008/58 - Racially or Religiously Aggravated Stalking with Fear of Violence
 - 008/65 - Stalking Involving Fear of Violence
 - 008/66 - Stalking Involving Serious Alarm/Distress
 - 008/74 - Breach of Stalking Order/Interim Stalking Order
 - 195/12 - Pursue a Course of Conduct which Amounts to Stalking
 - 008/67 - Engage in Controlling/Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate/Family Relationship
- For Parts 2 and 3, the only way for us to identify whether GPS trackers were used during the offence by conducting a key word search on the 'crime description' and 'MO description' fields. The key words we have used are: 'Social Media Tracker', 'Technology-Based Tracker', 'AirTags', 'Air Tag', and 'Tracker'.
- Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.

Part 1

Offence	Count of Crimes
Controlling/Coercive Behaviour	112
Stalking	13,680

Part 2 – NIL

Part 3

Offence	Count of Crimes
Stalking	52