



Date: 29/04/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012406/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012406/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/04/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

How many individuals under the age of 18 have been found to be carrying a knife by your police force in the following years:

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Result of Searches

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

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 the HO classification 10D 'possession of an article with a blade or point' and a created on date between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2023, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

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.

Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. **This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.**

Offenders may be attached to more than one crime during this time period. The total number of offenders in the table, therefore, isn't equal to the number of unique crimes.

The rise in numbers from 2020 may be due to increasing stop searches being conducted and a consequence of positive policing.

Suspects have been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted.

Year	Count of Offenders
2018	327
2019	400
2020	342
2021	443
2022	512
2023	502