

Date: 09/04/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012421/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012421/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/04/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

As of Friday 5 April 2024:

- 1. How many arrest warrants in the force area were outstanding?*
- 2. When does the oldest outstanding arrest warrant date from, and what alleged offences are relevant to the warrant?*
- 3. What is the average length that outstanding arrest warrants have been outstanding for?*
- 4. If information is easily available, what is the largest offence category / descriptor for outstanding arrest warrants?*

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 relating to the numbers of warrants per sub-group is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to supply this information held as an exemption applies.

The information requested in questions 2 and 4 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions: **Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities**

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is related to investigations that remain open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete those investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

The rest of the information you have requested is below.

1. 4,450
2. Exempt under S30, see above.
3. This information is not held by GMP. We don't record averages in relation to length of warrants.
4. Exempt under S30, see above.