

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012433/C

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012433/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/04/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

I'm getting in touch with an FOI request as I would like to receive information on the following questions for your local authority area, spanning the past 5 years up to the latest available data.

- 1. How many incidents of domestic violence were reported by the public and recorded during the requested timeframes?*
- 2. Of those reported, how many cases of domestic violence were followed up by a police officer?*
- 3. What were the police officer's response times for each domestic violence incident/report/call?*

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.

- The data contains Domestic Violence incidents recorded between 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023
- The data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

Response

Parts 1 & 2

Domestic Violence		
Year	Number of Incidents	Number of Incidents Attended
2019	60,072	54,874
2020	59,585	55,907
2021	60,841	55,506
2022	64,204	48,026
2023	65,180	47,867

Part 3

The information has been exempt by the virtue of the following exemptions:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement**

Section 31 is prejudice based and qualified exemptions; there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Public Interest Test

To disclose the full response times specifically for Domestic Violence incidents would disclose the operational functions and could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. Full disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, and result in potentially vulnerable areas being targeted more for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

Additionally, law enforcement tactics and operational capability would be compromised with the disclosure of these response times. This would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of police response times across Greater Manchester for Domestic Violence incidents would assist the populous in the knowledge that GMP take crime seriously. It would also show GMP's accountability in the use of public funds when it comes to front line policing.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

To provide such information could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder the Police force's ability to protect the members of the public against crimes. The threat of

crimes will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of criminals and terrorist gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the operation. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify different levels of police resources and exploit this resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

The safety of the public is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect and place individuals at risk.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to 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, which needs to be weighed against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure, which in this case is the likelihood of individuals being put at risk. The safety of the communities GMP police is of paramount importance and the Force would not detrimentally impact on that safety by disclosing harmful information in response to a FOI request.

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 Part 3 information.