



Date: 21/05/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012531/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012531/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/04/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm researching the type of offences committed during protests. Can you help with the following? Please can you supply the data in a spreadsheet format.

1. *How many arrests did you make during protests in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023? Please only include the most recent years (2021-2023) if this exceeds FOIs cost limits*
2. *Please could you break down (divide) the total arrests during protests for each year by the type of suspected offences (e.g. the number of arrests for wilful obstruction of the highway, the number of arrests for aggravated trespass, the number of arrests for criminal damage, the number of arrests for violent disorder and so on)?*

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.

However GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all arrests to see if they were “protest-related”.

A preliminary search of our custody records shows that for 2023 alone there are 63,538 arrest records that would require a manual review. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 5,000 hours to ascertain the data required, and that would only be for 2023, not the other years of your request.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours’ work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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