

Date: 21st May 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012561/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/012561/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/04/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

[How many people arrested/charged for sending 'malicious messages' between April 2022 and April 2024]

- 1. How many people charged and how many people cautioned under the Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003? Between April 2022 and April 2024 - Broken down by year.***
- 2. How many people charged and how many people cautioned under the Malicious Communications Act 1988? Between April 2022 and April 2024 - Broken down by year.***
- 3. What was the nature of these arrests/charges? For example, posting something on a social media site.***

Yes please, if you could proceed with the searches you have mentioned - that would be sufficient:

888/35 – Triable Either way Offence – Communication Act 2003 (except Sec 125 and 126) and 008/72 – Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety - Malicious Communications Act 1988 Sec 1 as amended by Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 Sec 32

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information 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 outcomes 1A for charges and 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D for cautions created between 1st April 2022 and 30th April 2024 under Home Office code 008/72 and 888/35 excluding cancelled crimes (further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office counting rules).
- There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime or multiple crimes committed by one suspect. For this reason, **the number of outcomes is not the same as the number of crimes**. Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period, which means that the data cannot be used to identify the number of unique suspects.
- We are aware of a system issue affecting **suspect outcomes for migrated crimes with more than one suspect attached**. This issue means that the outcome shown for some suspects attached to migrated crimes may be incorrect.

Question 1 – No information held. Searches returned 0 results.

Question 2

Outcome	008/72	Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	
	Malicious Communications Act 1988		
	2022	2023	2024
Caution (3A) (3C) (3B) (3D) (2A) (2B)	60	103	12
Charge (1A)	244	212	26

Question 3

HO Offence (Crime count)	2022	2023	2024
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety	350	360	44