

Date: 10th May 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012557/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/04/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am seeking data on number of racist attacks against convenience stores. I believe there is a strong public interest for this information to be published due to the safety risk posed to both businesses.

Please can you supply the following information:

1) The number of businesses who were victims of reported verbal and physical racist attacks for the periods of 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.

I would like information restricted to the following types of businesses; convenience store, corner shop, grocery store, supermarket, newsagent, symbol group, tobacconist, off licence and independent retailer.

2) Whether the attack was physical or verbal.

3) The ethnicity of the victim.

Ideally, I would like these figures broken down month-on-month.

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 a response to question 2 would require a manual review of all crimes to determine if the attack was physical or verbal. A search of GMPs records shows a total of 261 crimes which would need to be reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per crime would take this request to in excess of 21.75 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore as per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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 much shorter time period or a reduction in the volume of questions asked for example the removal of question 2. 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

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

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 hate crimes with a created date between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2023 where the Hate Crime Qualifier or Hate Crime Flags are equal to 'Y' and, the Racial Qualifier Flag or Religion/Belief Qualifier are equal to 'Y', and, the MO contains a Keyword of: 'Greengrocer', 'Supermarket', 'Newsagent', 'Tobacconist', 'Off licence', excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Non-crime hate incidents are not included in the data.
- Victim self-declared ethnicity is an optional field so may not be populated.

Question 1

Month	Total	Month	Total
Jan-22	13	Jan-23	10
Feb-22	10	Feb-23	10
Mar-22	14	Mar-23	8
Apr-22	9	Apr-23	22
May-22	12	May-23	10
Jun-22	8	Jun-23	12
Jul-22	14	Jul-23	12
Aug-22	9	Aug-23	20

Sep-22	5	Sep-23	6
Oct-22	11	Oct-23	13
Nov-22	8	Nov-23	11
Dec-22	6	Dec-23	8

Question 3

Due to the low numbers returned for some of the Victim Self Defined Ethnicity totals have been replaced with X and merged into years as by providing all this information split as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By merging and replacing the data it can be provided in its entirety.

Victim Self Defined Ethnicity	2022	2023
Asian – any other Asian background	5	15
Asian – Bangladeshi	X	X
Asian - Indian	X	X
Asian – Pakistani	16	14
Black – African	12	15
Black – Any other black background	X	5
Black - Caribbean	X	X
Mixed – Any other mixed background	X	X
Mixed – White and Asian	X	X
Mixed – White and Black African	X	X
Mixed – White and Black Caribbean	X	X
Not Provided/Not Stated	28	42
Other - Any Other Ethnic Group	X	X
White - Any Other White Background	X	6
White – British	17	7
White - Irish	X	X
Blank	29	24