

Date: 16/05/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012562/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012562/K

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

*****Follow up from 01/FOI/24/012440/B***

- 1. How many arrests made by Greater Manchester Police for possession of cannabis in the past 12 months were NFAs, due to the cannabis being medical cannabis?***
- 2. Have officers from Greater Manchester Police undergone training around medical cannabis and the law?***
- 3. Are there plans for such training to take place?***

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.

However, as previously provided under reference **01/FOI/24/012440/B**, GMP do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

There is no specific legislation pertaining to “medical” cannabis, therefore, to be able to respond to part 1 of this request would require a manual review of all offences involving cannabis to be able to ascertain if it was on medical grounds. Another review will then need to be undertaken to clarify how many of these had NFA's attached to them. Initial searches have brought back almost 1500 custody records that will all fall into the review. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes each log, it is expected to take over 100hrs to provide a response on this request.

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, as previously advised, the information you are requesting will need revising to a shorter timeframe and a reduction in questions being asked. However, 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.

Information Compliance & Records Management Unit, Information Management Branch, Greater Manchester Police Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2NS