



Date: 15/11/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013503/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013503/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I wish to inquire into the safeguarding and responsibilities of Greater Manchester police force, specifically regarding forced marriages.

For the purpose of these questions 'forced marriage' should be defined as where one or both people do not consent to the marriage.

Please answer as thoroughly as possible.

- 1. Does Greater Manchester police force recognise that there may be more people effected by forced marriages than is reported?*
- 2. How many calls does Greater Manchester police force receive monthly about forced marriages?*
- 3. What safeguarding policies has Greater Manchester police force got in place to ensure peoples safety when it comes to forced marriages?*
- 4. If someone calls for help does Greater Manchester police force investigate straight away?*
- 5. How many arrests have been made regarding forced marriages in your county?*

Freedom of Information Request: Forced Marriage Statistics

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:

The number of arrests made regarding forced marriages, and the number of phone calls made to GMP regarding forced marriages for the following periods:

*2020/21
2021/22*

2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

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 calls received to determine if any related to forced marriage. Not all calls result in an incident being created. The only way to establish how many relevant calls we received would be to listen to the recording of all the calls.

GMP received 1,482,086 emergency 999 and non-emergency 101 calls in 2023 alone. To comply with the whole of your request the process would take well 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. Alternatively, you could request the number of recorded crimes or incidents relating to forced marriage. 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