

Date: 11th November 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013529/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013529/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to know how many arrests you made under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 in the following years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and the first nine months of 2024. Please can you provide separate figures for each year.

In a separate table, please can you provide the number of arrests you made under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, over the same time period and in the same year-by-year breakdown.

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. Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes progress.

- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.

- Two searches have been conducted of our police system, the parameters used were 'First Arrest Date: Short Date' (filtered for dates specified) and 'Crime Initial Classification: Legislation' (filtered for question-specific legislation). The results are as follows:

Question 1 – No data returned.

Question 2

Due to low numbers being returned, some of the totals have been replaced with X, as by providing all this information split by total number of arrests per year 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 replacing this data in this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Year	Total
2017	X
2018	X
2019	60
2020	199
2021	300
2022	352
2023	336
2024	No data returned