

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013644/P

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 25 November 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013644/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/11/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

1)

a) How many unaccompanied migrant children have been registered as 'missing' since January 2020?

b) How many of these people (some of whom may now be adults) are still registered as missing?

c) How many of these have been missing for more than one month? How many have been missing for more than six months? How many have been missing for more than a year?

2)

a) Of the people in 1.) b) How many of these are still under the age of 18?

b) Of the people in 1.) b) How many of these are now over 18?

c) Of the people in 1.) b) please break down the ages at which they went missing (ie - how many went missing at age 14, how many at age 15, etc)

d) Please break down the figures in 1.) b) by sex

g) Please break down the figures in 1.) b) by nationality

h) Please break down the figures in 1.) b) by the local authority (or or other authority) from whose care they went missing.

3)

a) Of the people in 1.) b) Please provide me with the age and nationality of the girl who was the youngest on the date she went missing. Has she been missing for more than six months? More than a year? (If data protection rules allow please also tell me in which month did she go missing?) From which local authority/other authority?

b) Of the people in 1.) b) please provide me with the age and nationality of the boy who was the youngest on the date he went missing. Has he been missing for more than six months, more than a year? (If data protection rules allow please also tell me in which month did she go missing?) From which local authority/other authority?

If you are planning on invoking the time/cost exemption please instead answer as many questions as possible within the time/cost limit, starting from question 1 and working your way down.

Amended request received on 25/11/2024

1.)

a) How many unaccompanied migrant children have been registered as 'missing' since January 2020? If this data is only available via FOI for more recent months or years because of improved recording - please provide me with data reaching as far back as possible AND the date from which the data stretches back.

b) As at 22 November or nearest possible date: How many of these people (some of whom may now be adults) are still registered as missing?

C) How many of these in 1.) B) have been missing for more than one month? How many have been missing for more than six months? How many have been missing for more than a year?

2)

a) Of the people in 1.) b) How many of these are still under the age of 18?

b) Of the people in 1.) b) How many of these are now over 18?

c) Of the people in 1.) b) please break down the ages at which they went missing (ie - how many went missing at age 14, how many at age 15, etc)

d) Please break down the figures in 1.) b) by sex

e) Please break down the figures in 1.) b) by nationality

f) Please break down the figures in 1.) b) by the local authority (or or other authority) from whose care they went missing.

3)

a) Of the people in 1.) b) Please provide me with the age and nationality of the girl who was the youngest on the date she went missing. Has she been missing for more than six months? More than a year? (If data protection rules allow please also tell me in which month did she go missing?) From which local authority/other authority?

b) Of the people in 1.) b) please provide me with the age and nationality of the boy who was the youngest on the date he went missing. Has he been missing for more than six months, more than a year? (If data protection rules allow please also tell me in which month did she go missing?) From which local authority/other authority?

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format from the beginning of the request. Searches relating to missing children can only be conducted in relation to their age, gender and ethnicity. Nationality and any other details are not a searchable field. To provide the data regarding the no searchable field would involve a manual search of all relevant records for both initial and amended requests.

As we have in the region of 15,000 reports of missing children per year would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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, we can provide data for all missing children along with age, gender and ethnicity. However, we cannot provide data in more details than this within the time limit. 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.