

Date: 30th October 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013397/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

How many individuals arrested for possession of an offensive weapon were also in possession of a controlled drug or drugs.

Time period can be flexible depending on resources.

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 determine if an individual has been arrested for possession of an offensive weapon and was also in possession of a controlled drug would require a manual review of all custody records. An initial search of GMP's records for a 10 day time period alone returned over 130 records therefore we would be unable to provide the data for one month without exceeding the 18 hour cost limit.

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, for example to number

of arrests for possession of an offensive weapon. 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 exceeded (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.