

Date: 05/11/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013492/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013492/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The number of arrests you made regarding online sexual offences of any kind related to children, and the number of convictions for these offences for the following periods:

2019/20
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 the requested information and I can confirm some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to this request as in doing so would exceed the 18hrs permitted to locate and retrieve the information.

Having completed a search, over 3300 records were located using the following search criteria with "arrests" filtered in.

- 1.) causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity (section 10 of the SOA 2003);
- 2.) engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child (section 11 of the SOA 2003);
- 3.) causing a child to watch a sexual act (section 12 SOA 2003);
- 4.) meeting a child following sexual grooming (section 15 SOA 2003);

- 5.) sexual communication with a child (section 15A SOA 2003);
- 6.) sending photograph or film of genitals (section 66A SOA 2003);
- 7.) indecent photographs of children (section 1 POCA 1978);
- 8.) possession of indecent photo of a child (section 160 CJA 1988);
- 9.) possession of prohibited images of children (section 62 Coroners and Justice Act 2009);
- 10.) improper use of a public electronic communications system (section 127 Communications Act 2003);
- 11.) sending indecent, offensive, electronic communications with the intent to cause the recipient distress or anxiety (section 1 Malicious Communications Act 1988).

To be able to provide the accurate figure relating to this request each record will need manually reviewing to ascertain which ones related to the above requested data as a dip sample has shown that not all are relevant to what you require.

With over 3300 reviews at a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per log, it would take in the region of 275hrs to provide a response.

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 you are requesting will need revising to a much shorter time frame. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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 exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

- GMP do not hold prosecution or conviction data as this is held by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Please apply directly to HMCTS for such data.