

Date: 30/10/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013535/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013535/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request the following data relating to crime involving knives, bladed articles and offensive weapons, specifically in education facilities: schools and colleges (primary, secondary, college, public & private), within your jurisdiction boundaries, for the period from calendar year September 2021 to September 2024 (or most recent available data for 2024). I'm only looking for data relating to schools and colleges/higher education, not universities.

Please provide data on the following categories for each year in the specified time period:

Possession of bladed articles/knives/offensive weapons on school premises

- The number of recorded incidents where individuals were found in possession of bladed articles, knives or other offensive weapons on school premises.***
- If possible, please provide a breakdown by age group or school type (e.g., primary, secondary, college).***

Threats involving bladed articles/knives/offensive weapons

- The number of recorded incidents involving threats made with bladed articles, knives or other offensive weapons on school premises.***
- A breakdown by age group or school type if available.***

Attacks, incidents or injuries involving bladed articles/knives/offensive weapons

- The number of recorded attacks or incidents involving bladed articles, knives or other offensive weapons on school premises.***
- Any data on injuries caused during these incidents (e.g., minor injuries, serious injuries).***
- A breakdown by age group or school type if available.***

If it is not possible to provide all the information requested, please provide as much as you can and advise why certain data may not be available.

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.

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

To respond to question 3 of this request, a manual review would be needed for knife crimes within the requested period to determine their location and to be able to provide any data recorded on the types of injuries involving bladed articles/knives/offensive weapons. Between September 2021 and September 2024 there have been over 13,000 records that will each need reviewing. The scale of this review will most certainly exceed the 18hrs permitted to respond.

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 and/or the removal of the requested breakdown of injuries and location. 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.

In addition, we do publish all FOI request via the GMP website. I have provided a link below and here you can find several FOI requests for knife crime within school premises that may be of use.

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/published-items/>

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.