

Date: 11/11/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013599/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013599/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The total number of new shotgun and firearm licences granted to an applicant for the first time each year for the last five years.***
- 2. The total number of shotgun and firearm licences that were successfully renewed each year for the last five years.***
- 3. The total number of first-time applicants who had an application for a firearm or shotgun licence refused each year for the last five years.***
- 4. The total number of applications for the renewal of a firearm or shotgun licence that were refused, each year for the last five years.***

***I would be grateful if this is able to include data for 2024, year to date, if possible.
Please could you also list data for shotgun licences and firearms licences separately?***

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.

GMP would not be able to report the number of "first time applicants" with conducting a manual review. GMP can provide information on grants and renewals, however, without a manual review it would not show if an individual was a "first time applicant". Therefore, we cannot provide the data relevant to question 1 and 3. Initial searches have found nearly 1500 applications and at a

conservative estimate of 5 minutes per review it would take in the region of 125hrs to provide this part of the request.

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 with a much-reduced time frame and/or to change the wording and remove the "first time" element from the request. 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.