



Date: 21/10/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013330/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013330/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

For each of the years 2019-2024:

- (a) The total number of car accidents in Greater Manchester and*
- (b) Of those, the number caused by sneezing.*

Separated into each borough in Greater Manchester.

I would like you to provide this content in a spreadsheet if possible.

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 provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all recorded collisions to establish if sneezing was a contributory factor. As "sneezing" is not one of the pre-defined contributory factors that an officer can add to a collision record, a manual review of all records would be necessary.

A preliminary search of our collision records shows that there would be 15,000 records that would need to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 1,000 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 to a greatly reduced time period. 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