

Date: 26th September 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013153/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013153/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/08/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Request 1

***Please provide the number of incidents/crimes/reports received/attended by Greater Manchester Police referencing 'Sodium Nitrite'.
Please search records from 2018 to present Please break down the statistics by year and month***

***2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024***

Request 2

***Please provide the number of incidents/crimes/reports received/attended by Greater Manchester Police referencing 'Sodium Nitrate'.
Please search records from 2018 to present Please break down the statistics by year and month***

***2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024***

Request 3

Please provide the number of incidents/crimes/reports received/attended by Greater Manchester Police referencing 'suicide kit'.

Please search records from 2018 to present Please break down the statistics by year and month

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Request 4

Please provide the number of incidents/crimes/reports received/attended by Greater Manchester Police referencing 'website'.

Please search records from 2018 to present Please break down the statistics by year and month

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

CLARIFICATION

For example:

The total number of incidents/crimes/reports received/attended by GMP (all of these ie. any public contact by GMP where sodium nitrite has been noted). I am asking for this statistical data to be broken down into the years requested and months of that particular year.

And so on for the other keywords I have requested. Please note both sodium nitrite and sodium nitrate have been requested.

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, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemption applies.

Caveats for crime and incident data:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains incidents with a created date between 01/01/2018 and 31/08/2024 where the title, details or contact comments contains 'sodium nitrate', 'sodium nitrite', 'suicide kit' or 'website', excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/01/2018 and 31/08/2024 where the crime description or crime MO description contains 'sodium nitrate', 'sodium nitrite', 'suicide kit' or 'website', excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

Due to the low numbers returned for question 1 and 3 the data has been merged as by providing all this information split by month and year as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By merging this data, it can be provided in its entirety.

	Total Incidents	Total Crime	Total Attended
Question 1	18	1	12
Question 3	14	0	10

Question 2

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

Due to low numbers returned, the data for question 2 has been exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) Personal Information – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Question 4

Caveats for incident attendance:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains incidents with a created date between 01/01/2018 and 31/08/2024 where there is an Earliest Arrival Date and crime description or crime MO description contains 'sodium nitrate', 'sodium nitrite', 'suicide kit' or 'website', excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.
- If quoting any attendance data please be aware that this is only routinely recorded for the G1 and G2 incidents, all other grades we are not routinely recording attendance.

Crimes	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	22	21	13	22	24	20	31	14	20	29	23	20
2019	18	15	21	17	20	16	23	10	27	13	16	27
2020	11	16	24	12	19	21	24	26	21	13	23	26
2021	24	15	24	20	23	22	15	20	19	17	15	21
2022	14	19	21	16	22	19	24	23	20	47	38	34
2023	51	33	43	35	43	49	39	46	44	36	33	28
2024	46	38	32	40	41	36	25	41	0	0	0	0
Total	186	157	178	162	192	183	181	180	151	155	148	156

Incidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Attended
2018	28	26	37	40	25	30	29	23	21	25	17	35	83
2019	26	22	34	26	28	27	59	73	50	40	73	53	142
2020	75	69	67	67	131	62	53	68	55	74	67	71	269
2021	94	65	176	85	62	36	35	52	44	41	50	57	242
2022	34	45	51	48	68	86	76	99	78	109	82	87	117
2023	96	107	107	117	128	149	117	143	141	125	136	103	171
2024	163	128	106	122	107	89	109	131	0	0	0	0	87
Total	516	462	578	505	549	479	478	589	389	414	425	406	1,111