

**Date:** 26/09/2024  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/24/013315/B

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013315/B**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***This request relates to the Police Force's use of psychics (by which I mean all types of psychics, clairvoyants, 'remote viewers', mediums, astrologers, mind-readers, etc.)***

- 1. In the last three years, how many times has the police force actively engaged with a psychic for the purpose of using their services?***
- 2. In the last three years, how many times has the force paid for the services of a psychic in relation to a criminal case?***
- 3. In the last three years, how many times has the police force been contacted by psychics offering to help with a criminal investigation?***
- 4. Does the police force have any written policy regarding the use of psychics in criminal investigations? If so, please provide me with a copy.***

**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 only be able to respond to question 3 of this request if a manual review was carried out on all the calls received during the past 3 years. We are unable to determine the number of calls/contacts that are made to GMP in relation to specific topics in this request as not every call results in an incident and until an incident is recorded, we are unable to determine the nature of the call. Initial

searches carried out have shown over 50,000 calls per month in the last 12 months alone, and so to review each one would certainly exceed the 18hrs permitted to provide any information held.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the removal of question 3. 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](mailto: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.

**Question 4 – No information held.**