

Date: 03/10/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013343/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013343/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This request relates to cases of abandoned babies (infants under the age of 2) that have been investigated by your force over the last decade. Please include babies that have been found dead and alive.

1. Please state the number of cases of infant abandonment that have been investigated by your force in each of the following years: a) 2015, b) 2016, c) 2017, d) 2018, e) 2019, f) 2020, g) 2021, h) 2022, i) 2023, j) 2024 so far.

2. If possible, for each case please provide the following information:

- a) Was the infant found dead or alive?**
- b) What was the estimated age of the infant when discovered (in weeks/months)?**
- c) In what type of location was the infant found? (i.e., park / public toilet / hospital, rather than address)**

If it is not possible to answer questions 2b and 2c, I would be grateful if you could respond with answers to questions 1 and 2a only.

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 are unable to provide a response to this request unless a manual review is completed. A search has been carried out to see if we hold any data relative to this request. A search on code 012/00 abandoning child under 2 years has not returned the results you are after.

Therefore, a comprehensive search and review must be conducted as the data required will be logged under a number of different offences such as "child neglect" and "homicides". Initial searches have brought back over 1400 results filtering to victim 2 & under. At a conservative estimate of between 5 - 10 minutes per log it would take in the region of around 175hrs to provide a response.

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 shorter time frame and a reduction in the breakdown of data required. It may also help to provide the HO codes that you require the data for. 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.

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. 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.

Some data may be available in the public domain after carrying out a search on your chosen search engine.

[Baby found abandoned and unconscious in Wigan hospital toilets - BBC News](#)

[Police name newborn baby found abandoned in Greater Manchester woodland as hunt for mother continues | London Evening Standard | Evening Standard](#)