

Date: 20th September 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013201/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013201/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you tell me how many police incidents regarding 5G masts there has been in Greater Manchester since the beginning of 2019 to August 2024.

Please can you provide a detail of the incident (e.g. arson); date and location of the mast and outcome of the incident, i.e. an individual being charged.

Clarification

In regard to your first question, I suppose i'd be interested in incidents, as I'm assuming crimes might fall under there but there may also be incidents authorities have responded to that might not have been classified as a crime.

As for your second question, a keyword search of "5G mast" or "Phone mast", "telecommunications mast", "cell tower" would likely work. I'm ultimately interested in incidents that may have targeted telecommunications infrastructure in the form of telecoms towers.

As for your third question, I'm interested in possibly getting the date of that incident, although if only the month and year is available, that's fine too. Additionally, the location of where the incident took place, although if it's only possible to get the city and postcode, that's understandable.

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.

Caveats:

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 01/01/19 and 31/08/24, where the title, details, or contact comments contains one of the following phrases, excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training:
 - '5G mast'
 - 'Phone mast'
 - 'Telecommunications mast'
 - 'Cell tower'
- 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.
- We are aware of system issues affecting **locations for incidents** (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include incidents that did not happen in that location and/or exclude incidents that did.
 - Some incidents do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.
- There can be more than one closing code attached to an incident. For this reason, **the total number of incident closure codes is not the same as the number of incidents.**

Due to the low numbers returned, the data provided cannot be broken down by month or location of the incident as by providing all the information as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned and as such exemption under Section 40(2) – Personal Information would be engaged and result in the information being refused. By providing the data this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Year	Total number of Incidents
2019	12
2020	32
2021	13
2022	12
2023	11
2024	5
Total	85

District	Total number of Incidents
Bolton	6
Bury	4
City of Manchester	24
Manchester Airport	4
Oldham	4
Rochdale	8
Salford	8
Stockport	10
Tameside	7
Trafford	5
Unknown	1

Wigan	5
-------	---

Due to low numbers being returned, some of the outcome's totals have been replaced with X, as by providing all this information as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under Section 40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By replacing this data in this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Incident Closure Code Description	Total
Abandoned Call	X
Abandoned Vehicle	X
Animal Problems	X
Civil Dispute	X
Collapse/Injury/Illness/Trapped	X
Concern for Safety (18 & Over)	X
Concern for Safety (17 & Under)	X
Contact Record / Message / Information	30
Criminal Damage	6
Damage	X
Domestic Incident - Between Adults	X
Domestic Incident - Non ACPO Domestic	X
Highway Disruption	X
Lost / Found Property / Person	X
Non Deployment / Local Resolution	X
NWAS	X
Other Crime	8
Other Police Force Dealing	X
Other Theft, Handling & Fraud	X
Passed to Other Agency	5
Police Generated or Resource Activity - (Closing Code)	X
Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour	X
Sexual / Indecency (Not Rape)	X
Suspicious circumstances - (Closing Code)	10
Trespass	X
Vehicle Crime	X
Violence	X
Violent / Public Order	X