

Date: 23/09/2024

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013207/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013207/Y

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

Please supply the following information for each of the last three calendar years (1st January 2021 - 31st December 2021, 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022 and 1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023):

Q1) How many reports did your force receive of counterfeit money being used to pay for goods/services?

Q2) In relation to Q1, how many arrests were made?

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.

For GMP to respond to question 2 of this request it would require a manual review to be carried out for all the reports found for question 1. Initial searches have been completed and found 560 results and to complete a review of each one it would take in the region of 46hrs if we assigned 5 minutes to each log.

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. However, 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 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 1.

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 crimes recorded between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2023 recorded under the below Home Office codes, excluding cancelled crimes (further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office counting rules).

- 061/24 Making a counterfeit coin or note
- 061/25 Pass etc. a counterfeit coin or note as genuine
- 061/26 Possess a counterfeit coin or note
- 061/27 Possess materials or dyes to make a counterfeit coin or note
- 061/28 Reproduce a British currency note or make imitation coins
- 061/32 Failure to withdraw from circulation a Euro note or coin which is believed to be counterfeit
- 061/33 Failure to hand over a Euro note or coin believing it to be counterfeit

Question 1.

Year	Number of Counterfeit Crimes
2021	115
2022	280
2023	165
Total	560