

Date: 16th September 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013221/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013221/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Background information:

I have been collecting data published by the government on the number of blackmail offences (offence code: 35) recorded by police forces every financial year from 2012/13 to 2023/24.

I am now looking for more information from each force about the ages recorded for the victims in these cases.

Greater Manchester Police's recorded blackmail offences for each of the years is as follows:

12/13: 59

13/14: 57

14/15: 153

15/16: 249

16/17: 356

17/18: 474

18/19: 703

19/20: 577

20/21: 766

21/22: 1235

22/23: 1852

23/24: 2294

Question:

-For each of the financial years since 2012/13, please could you break down the ages recorded for victims of all of the blackmail offences recorded by the force?

Please feel free to group ages. For instance, if there were 50 recorded blackmail offences for one year you could then provide the ages in groups such as: 5 aged 14; 5 aged 15; 10 aged 16; 20 aged 17; 10 aged 18 etc

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.

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 Blackmail crimes (035/00) with a created date between 01/04/2012 and 31/03/2024, with a victim attached. These exclude cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:

- The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
- The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
- Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
- The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.

Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.

Date/Age band	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65OVER	Invalid Value	Missing Value	UNDER16	Grand Total
2012-13	13	16	8	10	5	1	0	3	2	58
2013-14	17	11	11	4	4	6	0	2	2	57
2014-15	47	39	26	17	9	7	0	2	6	153

2015-16	81	64	39	31	15	4	0	9	6	249
2016-17	96	101	55	46	19	9	0	10	20	356
2017-18	118	117	87	52	30	20	0	31	19	474
2018-19	211	164	99	90	57	36	0	17	27	701
2019-20	172	150	84	72	28	21	0	11	29	567
2020-21	277	193	115	75	54	20	0	11	20	765
2021-22	437	307	167	125	58	34	0	14	57	1199
2022-23	836	377	220	139	95	37	0	14	125	1843
2023-24	965	500	273	143	109	61	1	23	193	2268
Grand Total	3270	2039	1184	804	483	256	1	147	506	8690