

Date: 12th September 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013237/E

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

As part of some research into how much social media companies are providing assistance when requested by law enforcement, please see the below request under the Freedom Of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information for the period 2019 to 2024 for Greater Manchester Police. If possible please present the information in six month sections. So in total this would be

- ***Jan-Jun 2019***
- ***Jul-Dec 2019***
- ***Jan-Jun 2020***
- ***Jul-Dec 2020***
- ***Jan-Jun 2021***
- ***Jul-Dec 2021***
- ***Jan-Jun 2022***
- ***Jul-Dec 2022***
- ***Jan-Jun 2023***
- ***Jul-Dec 2023***
- ***Jan-Jun 2024***

- 1. The total number of investigations began by Greater Manchester Police within those periods***
- 2. The total number of investigations by Greater Manchester Police within those periods, in which information to support prosecution, other than that which is already in the public domain, was requested from the company Meta, or any of its subsidiaries or trading names.***
- 3. The total number of investigations by Greater Manchester Police within those periods, in which any of the information requested in point 3 was subsequently provided by Meta.***

4. The total number of requests by Greater Manchester Police, within those periods, made to Meta for any information other than that in the public domain.

5. Of the requests in point 4, how many were successful for each period?

If you are unable to provide the data for the Jan-Jun period of each year, please instead provide it for each calendar year or for quarterly or annual periods since 2019 which have already been collated by you. If the data requested in one point above is not available, please explain why but still address the remaining points. Please provide such data electronically, ideally as a spreadsheet or table.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To determine the reason a request for information was submitted to Meta and if this relates to assisting prosecution would require a manual review of all requests. An initial search of GMP's records shows a total of 6,963 requests made within the timeframe required. As such it is anticipated to exceed the 18 hour limit to provide a response to this request.

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 that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a much shorter time period or a reduction in the volume of questions asked. 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