



Date: 01/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014269/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014269/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to access a list detailing the reported claims of supernatural sightings that Greater Manchester Police has received since January 1 2020.

This can be anything from suspected monsters, aliens, ghosts, zombies or UFO sightings around the Greater Manchester area.

For each reported sighting of the supernatural, I would like:

- a description of each sighting.*
- the date and location of each sighting.*
- whether or not the Greater Manchester Police investigated the sighting (if so, the outcome of the investigation).*

In addition, I would like to know the total cost of the Greater Manchester Police having to address claims of this supernatural nature since Jan 1 2020.

I also note your clarification, dated 04/03/2025:

I would specifically like to know the total number of calls/reports to GMP where the supernatural has been mentioned since January 1 2020, and details of the supernatural report in each of these calls (e.g. I've just seen a ghost in my kitchen, my dog has turned into a zombie).

For reference, I saw a 2016 article on M.E.N (link at bottom of page) spotlighting some of the most ludicrous and bizarre reports of the supernatural in Greater Manchester from 2010-2016. It interests me to find the same information but in the time frame of January 1 2020 to today.

I've had a look at the spreadsheet of notifiable offences and I'm not so sure that this would help my FOI as I am interested in the reports that GMP call receivers have made not so much crimes that have been committed. Do please let me know if I need to specify anything further or if anything is unclear.

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 provide the data requested would involve a manual review of the recordings all calls received since 2020 to see if the supernatural was mentioned. We are unable to determine the number of calls that are made to GMP in relation to the specific topics in the request as not every call result in an incident, and until an incident is recorded, we are unable to determine the nature of the call. Call data represents the volume/quantitative side such as how many calls we received, the duration of each call, the number of unanswered calls, etc. It does not provide any details about the content of the calls.

A search of our records shows that for 2024 alone, we received 1,332,162 calls. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each recording it would take over 111,000 hours to ascertain the data required, and that would only be for the last year.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 greatly reduced time period. 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