

Date: 1st April 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014382/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014382/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm emailing from [REDACTED]. I'm looking into the numbers of knife related incidents which happen at schools.

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you confirm you have received this request.

Please can you tell me the following:

Q1: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools?

Q2: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of offences involving a knife at school broken down by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules?

Q3: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the suspect?

Q4: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 involving a knife committed at schools broken down by how the suspect knows the victim?

Q5: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the victim?

Q6: For the questions above, what method did you use to filter offences down to those committed at schools?

CLARIFICATION

Yes please to the offences you have identified.

Please can you also do searches related to the following code

08/63 - Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises

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 a response to question 4 would require a manual review of all records to determine how the offender knows the victim. From the initial search there is a total of 623 crimes which would require a manual review. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to provide the requested information.

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. For example a reduction in the breakdown required. 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 exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

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 classified under the following offences with a created date between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2024, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB. Please note, the data in this response has not been found using the definition for knife crime according to the ADR 160.
 - 008/27 – Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises

- 008/28 – Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises
- 008/62 – Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises
- 008/63 – Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises
- Some offences may only be available for part of this time period i.e. they may have started or stopped being used during this period.
- Schools may have policies that allow crimes to be resolved without being reported to the police. This means that this data may not reflect the total number of crimes that occurred in schools.

Question 1 & Question 2

Year	008/27	008/28	008/62	008/63
2020	66	10	8	1
2021	100	12	22	5
2022	119	22	20	5
2023	83	18	23	6
2024	72	9	20	2