

Date: 16/04/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014480/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014480/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Q1 - How many people have been arrested for soliciting sex work between 2014-2024 in Manchester (in the last 10 years)?

Q2 - How many prostitute cautions were issued between 2014-2024 in Manchester? (In the last 10 years)

Q3 - How many reports of violence/abuse against sex workers were filed each year between 2014-2024 in Manchester (in the last 10 years)?

Q4 - Are there any problem profiles in relation to sex work or soliciting sex work?

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold some the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

The prostitute caution is not recorded as a crime on GMP systems, and so to be able to provide a response to question 3 would require a substantial manual review of all officer's pocket notebooks to locate if any such cautions have been issued. This would be needed for all districts dating back to 2014 as per your request. As such would easily exceed the 18hrs permitted to be able to answer 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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need the removal of the question for data relating to prostitute cautions (question 3). This request would require an enormous manual search to be conducted under any time frame, and a response to this question would be difficult to locate and provide if GMP did hold any data. 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.