

Date: 15/04/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014527/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014527/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The request below has been slightly reworded below in red. Due date and all the rest still applies.

This is a request for information according to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It relates to children in recorded crimes of domestic abuse. Since the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children are considered victims of domestic abuse if he/she "sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse," and is related to the victim and/or perpetrator.

According to research conducted by the Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention strategy, between 2020-2023, 12% of domestic abuse incidents where a child was linked to the offence involved "violence with injury." One third (36.5%) of children were aged under-five at the time of the first recorded violence with injury incident. The average age of a child witnessing violence in the home was just over seven years old.

Please can you provide the following information. Please note there are three parts to my request.

(1)

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024, how many recorded crimes of domestic abuse did your force record where a child was linked to the offence?

By domestic abuse, I mean an incident between two individuals aged 18+ and domestic abuse can include emotional, sexual, physical and financial abuse.

(2)

How many of the children linked to the offence were:

Under-5
6-12 years
12 years and over

(if providing this data takes my request over the cost limit, please confine your response to Questions 1 and 3).

(3)

In how many of the recorded crimes of domestic abuse in Q1 did the offence involve “violence with injury”?

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.

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

For GMP to be able to provide a response to questions 2 and 3 of this request, it would require a substantial manual review of all the recorded DA crimes that relate to this request. These questions do not have a filter that allows for easy extraction from our system and so this would be the only method to obtain this data. Searches have provided over 5,000 results in January 2022 alone and so this request will not be able to be complete in full within the time limits.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 revising with the removal of questions 2 and 3. 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.