

**Date:** 07/04/2025  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/25/014554/R

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014554/R**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***I would like to request information under the Freedom of Information Act concerning the issuing of firearms certificates and inspections over the past five years.***

***I would like to know the number of firearms certificates issued over the past five years.***

- 1. The number of new certificates issued.***
- 2. The number of inspections. Can I have this broken down to inspections of new firearms certificate applications and renewal applications.***
- 3. Can I have figures for the number of applications and refusals.***
- 4. Also, could I have information on the number of firearms offences investigated by your force where the weapon was legally held (or had a firearms certificate).***
- 5. Can i also find out the number of legally held firearms reported stolen over that period.***
- 6. Can you break down the number of firearms held by type?***

**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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to part 2 of this request, it would require a substantial manual examination of over 7,500 files, as the information broken down for this question is not held in a central location for easy extraction. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per each review, this request would take over 625hrs to respond and this does not include the remaining information you have asked for.

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 question 2. 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](mailto: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 fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1 – 1371.

Question 3 - New applications. 1,632 - 135 new **grant** applications were refused.

**Renewal** applications. 5,717 - 41 **renewals** were refused.