

Date: 17th April 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014577/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide the following information for the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 calendar years:

1 - How many knives were seized by police following stop and search

2 - How many knives were seized by police from people aged under 18 following stop and search

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 information requested would require a manual review of all knife seizure records to determine which records relate to a Stop and Search. From an initial search there is over 17,000 records 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.

However, in accordance with Section 16(1) – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit.

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 exceed (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.

- The data supplied contains records for searches between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2024, where a bladed article was found.
- Age is calculated from recorded date of birth.
- "Bladed Article" was only introduced as a category within our Record Management System in June 2024, and no attempt was made to update records prior to June 2024 with the newly introduced categorisation.

Year	Count of Stop Search Records Where Bladed Article Found	Count of Stop Search Records Where Bladed Article Found and Person Under 18
2024	484	95