



Date: 31/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014893/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014893/H

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The main purpose of this request is to gather data on the illegal supply and use of weight loss injections.

I am requesting the following data, covering the period from January 1, 2020, to the present (including partial data for 2025, if available):

Specifically, I am seeking information on the following:

Incidents and Investigations:

1. The number of recorded incidents or investigations involving the illegal sale, possession, or administration of weight loss injections from January 1st 2020, to the most recent available date 2. A breakdown of how many incidents occurred in each calendar year

Arrests and Outcomes:

1. The number of arrests made in connection with these incidents 2. The number of individuals charged or prosecuted as a result

[IF HELD]

Substances Involved:

1. A list of weight loss substances involved in these cases, where recorded (e.g. semaglutide, liraglutide, or other prescription-only or unlicensed drugs)

I also note your clarification, provided on 06/06/2025:

*I am seeking data on investigations or seizures involving **unregulated, illegal or unlicensed weight loss injections** or drugs.*

Relevant Home Office offence codes may include 92A (Trafficking in Controlled Drugs), 92C (Other Drug Offences), 92D (Possession of Controlled Drugs excluding Cannabis), 60 (Forgery or Use of Drug Prescription), and 95 (Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements).

Additionally, offences under the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 concerning unauthorised medicinal products may be applicable.

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.

GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes recorded under the offence codes you have provided to see if the drug involved was a weight-loss drug.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 41,799 crimes that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 3,483 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 to a greatly reduced time period. 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