



Date: 01/08/2025  
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015065/J

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015065/J**

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

*For the 20/21, 21/22, 23/24 and 24/25 year periods: On how many occasions have Authorised Firearms Officers police been deployed to an incident, which was then treated as a 'malicious call'? Or 'Hoax'?*

*Please could this information be broken down by year.*

*If obtaining this information exceeds the cost threshold, could I please filter the request for just the 23/24 and 24/25 year periods. And if that too exceeds the cost threshold, could I please filter the request for just the 24/25 year period.*

**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 firearms authorisations to see if the incident originated from a hoax call. The system GMP use for our firearms authorities does not have the ability to enter search parameters to identify hoax calls, so the only way to establish this information would be to review each case individually.

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](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk)