

Date: 18/08/2025

Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015278/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015278/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. *The number of times your force received a complaint regarding your force's legal right to enter and search a property.***
- 2. *The number of these complaints that were upheld.***
- 3. *The number of these complaints that were upheld for entering the wrong property.***
- 4. *The total amount paid in damages from these complaints.***
- 4. b. *Can you give the highest amount paid in an individual case, the reason the search was deemed illegal (for example: wrong address, no search warrant) and the location please. Please anonymise as/if necessary for it to be included in your response. Can you provide the data for 2022, 2023, 2024 and from 01/01/25 – 30/06/25 (inclusive) presented in calendar years please.***

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.

In relation to question 4 and 4b, GMP would be unable to answer how many claims are paid as a result of a 'complaint' without carrying out a full manual review of 1000's of files for this request. This is due to how the information is recorded and stored and that not every complaint results in a claim for financial loss. We also could not say how many claims we have paid for trespass to property as claims are usually combined with other heads of loss and so we would need to manually review every file to work out whether they included a claim for trespass to property. A soft search was completed to see how many falls into this review and for 2024/25 alone it would require an interrogation of 442 files which would take in the region of 73hrs just for this period.

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 a reduced timeframe and the removal of Qs 4. Additionally, all complaints made to GMP began to be centrally held via the PSD unit from September 2024, so a time frame from this period may present more data being able to be located and retrieved within the time frame set by the FOIA. 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.