



Date: 22/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015307/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015307/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am currently undertaking research with [REDACTED], formerly of the Metropolitan Police Service (now retired) and the United Nations on Drugs and Crime Expert on Policing, Drugs and HIV Prevention and Care for Russia, Belarus and Vietnam 2005-2012, into the application of legislation regarding khat, a Class C substance.

- 1. Can you confirm whether or not your force makes a distinction between cannabis and khat warnings when such events are recorded on your systems, including local ones?*
- 2. Similarly, do your systems record arrests, stops & searches, cautions or charges involving khat?*
- 3. If such information is recorded, we would be grateful if you could list the number of such events individually for each year since June 2014.*
- 4. Have any of these events involved the production or sale of (a) khat extracts or (b) khat tinctures?*

Many thanks in advance for any information you can provide.

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 number of stop and searches related to khat would require each drug related stop and search record to be manually reviewed as the type of drug found or suspected is not a searchable field on our stop and search system.

A search of records shows that 95,371 stop search records 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 8,000 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