

Date: 14/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015205/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015205/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), seeking data relating to items or assets that have been confiscated, seized, or otherwise removed from serving police officers, PCSOs, or police staff due to breaches of policy, criminal investigations, or misconduct proceedings.

Specifically, please provide the following information:

- 1. Statistics by year (for calendar years 2021, '22, '23, '24, and '25) on the number of items confiscated, broken down by category where recorded, e.g.:*
 - o Weapons (firearms, knives, batons, etc.)*
 - o Controlled drugs or substances*
 - o Cash (including unexplained/unauthorised sums)*
 - o Cryptocurrency (provide an estimated value)*
 - o Digital assets (e.g., laptops, mobile phones, storage devices)*
 - o Other contraband or prohibited property*
 - 2. For each category, please provide (where recorded):*
 - o The total number of incidents per year.*
 - o The type of item(s) confiscated (broad description only).*
 - o Whether confiscation occurred as part of internal disciplinary investigations or criminal investigations.*
 - 3. Please confirm whether your force maintains a central record or database of such confiscations (e.g., through the Professional Standards Department or Property/Evidence Unit), and if so, what datasets are recorded (e.g., item type, value, reason for seizure, outcome). Please, if possible, provide the data in an Excel compatible file.*
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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.

There is no centrally held system/document that would allow for easy extraction to respond to this request. A manual review would be required for each case file to look through and respond to each piece of breakdown you have requested. If we only looked at conduct cases, there would be over 1700 cases alone to interrogate, and this would far exceed the limitations set in the FOIA. Given the volume of this request and the lengthy time period I can confidently say GMP would not be able to provide a response.

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 a reduction in the volume of requested information and breakdowns. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.