



Date: 10/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015752/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015752/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am conducting research into the public influence on stop and search incidents. I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to support this.

The request

Can you provide 100 random samples from stop and search incident logs (Which you must record) between 1st January 2024 and 1st January 2025 with the following information? To ensure fairness, I request that the 100 incidents be randomly selected (e.g. by applying a random number generator across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe). Please record what random sample method you used.

For each one of the samples, can you please provide the following:

1. *Which random number log was it?*
2. *Identify whether it was public-initiated or Police-initiated (Definition below).*
3. *3a. If the search was public-led, record the caller's description of the suspect (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).*
3b. Record the officer's description of the person being searched (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
(Complete both if information is provided by both the public and the officer.)
4. *Time/date of the search*
- 5.

Please see the example table format below to illustrate the type of information I am requesting. I am not asking you to follow this exact layout - it is only a mock example to show the type of data I am seeking.

The bold text (prior to the colon) indicates the headings for each column.

Example one:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 0930 Hours

Random number log: 432

Police or public-led: Police

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC1, Male, 24 If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): N/A Area code: B1

Example Two:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 1420 Hours

Random number log: 10036

Police or public-led: Public

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, 32 If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, in their 30s Area code: A1

Definitions and Supporting Information

Public-initiated is an event and/or encounter initiated or guided directly by external actors (Public). For example, the initial grounds, location or direction came from outside the police service, through calls, reports or information provided by members of the public, leading to a police encounter.

Police-initiated is defined in this study as events and/or encounters initiated solely by the individual officers, or suspicious by the police organisation via intelligence-led or operational practices-for example, individual officers on proactive patrol, intelligence-led operation or professional judgment.

When it was "where recorded" to ensure it's kept, I am referring to the location area code your individual service gives it.

Cost and Feasibility

I have deliberately limited my request to 100 incidents to fit comfortably within the cost threshold. This allows for an estimated 5 minutes per log to read and abstract the information, which equates to under 9 hours of staff time. At £25 per hour, this would total approximately £225, well below the statutory cost threshold of £450.

This breakdown will allow me to analyse the role of public influence in the initiation and outcomes of stop and search encounters.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. Please let me know if you require clarification on any aspect.

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. GMP do not record on our stop and search records whether the encounter was police led, or public led. The only way to provide this would be manually review the free text “grounds” and “reason” fields to see if that is noted. To provide the information requested in question 3A would require a further manual review of all incidents reported on the dates in question to ascertain if a description has been provided by a member of the public. Our stop and search records do not have a field for associated incidents, so the only way to ascertain this information would be to search each incident to see if it is linked to the stop and search.

Although only 100 stop and search records have been requested, the number of incidents that would have to be manually reviewed is much higher. 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