

Date: 12/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015859/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015859/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about missing-person reports involving asylum-seeking individuals in the [Name of Police Force] area.

Please provide the following information for each calendar year 2024 and 2025 to date:

1. *The number of recorded missing-person incidents where the individual is recorded as:
 - a. *An unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC); and*
 - b. *An asylum-seeking adult (including those in asylum accommodation).**
2. *For UASC cases in (1a):
 - a. *The number of incidents where the child was safely located and returned;*
 - b. *The number of incidents where the child was recorded as having left the UK; and*
 - c. *The number of UASC who remain long-term missing as of the date of this request.**
3. *If recorded, please state the number of missing UASC cases in which there is a marker or note indicating concerns about trafficking or exploitation.*

I am requesting anonymised statistical data only and am not seeking any personal information.

If the full time period would exceed the cost limit, please prioritise 2025 onwards and advise what can be disclosed within the limit, treating any remaining part as a refined request.

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 data requested would involve a manual search of every missing person report to see if the missing person in question was an asylum seeker.

A search of missing person records shows that there are approximately 30,000 missing person reports received per year. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 2,500 hours to ascertain the data required, and that would only be for one year.

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