

Date: 25th November 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015861/D

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information on drink driving offences and roadside breath testing within your force area.

For clarity, this request relates specifically to drink driving offences under Section 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above the prescribed limit).

If your force records drink driving offences under different offence codes, contravention codes, or internal classifications, please provide the equivalent data for offences relating to driving or attempting to drive over the prescribed alcohol limit.

Please exclude drug driving offences recorded under Section 4 and Section 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 where possible. If your recording system does not allow drink driving offences to be separated from drug driving offences, please provide the combined figure and state clearly that the data includes both drink and drug driving offences.

Please provide the following for each calendar month in 2022, 2023 and 2024:

- 1. The total number of drink driving arrests***
- 2. The total number of roadside breath tests conducted***
- 3. The total number of roadside breath tests where the driver was recorded as being over the legal alcohol limit***
- 4. The highest evidential breath alcohol reading (µg per 100ml) recorded in that month***

Please provide the information in an Excel spreadsheet or CSV format, if possible.

If any part of this request is likely to exceed the cost limit, please advise which elements can be provided within the limit so I may refine the 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 a response to question 4 would require a manual review of all custody records as the reading provided is a free text entry. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to provide the requested information.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced, for example a removal of question 4. 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

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1

The total number of drink driving arrests – Section 5 offences only.

2022 – 2,044
2023 – 2,160
2024 – 2,277

Question 2

The total number of roadside breath tests conducted.

2022 – 1,349
2023 – 3,481
2024 – 3,194

Question 3

The total number of roadside breath tests where the driver was recorded as being over the legal alcohol limit.

2022 – 678
2023 – 1,692

2024 – 1,578