

Date: 17/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015891/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015891/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

How many police officers and civilian staff are known to be Freemasons or have declared that they are Freemasons?

How many people who have been reported to the force (whether that has resulted in an arrest or not), have been charged with an offence, or have been convicted of an offence are known to be Freemasons or believed to be connected to the Freemasons?

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 some the information requested may be held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP cannot advise if it holds if the number officers and civilian staff are known to be Freemasons or have declared that they are Freemasons without completing a thorough review manually of each personal file. This information is not requested upon application to join GMP, and so the review would be the only route available to answer this part of the request. However, even with this review it may not be a true reflection on the number connected with "freemasons" Additionally, for part two of your requested information there are **309,992** crimes from between 01/12/2024 and 30/11/2025 where there's an offender attached, and each of these would need to be trawled through to understand how many are linked to freemasons also. With over 12,000 employees and 309,000 plus crimes to review this FOI could not be completed in under 18hrs.

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.

In this instance, due to the scale of any review linked to this, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.