

Date: 16/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015912/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015912/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Freedom of Information Request - Domestic Abuse Primary Perpetrator & Dual Arrests

I am writing to make a request for information regarding the Force's adherence to the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on Domestic Abuse. Specifically, I am seeking data to establish if the operational handling of "counter-allegations" and "dual arrests" aligns with the guidance to identify a "Primary Perpetrator."

Please provide the following information:

1. Reporting Statistics & Primary Perpetrator Identification The College of Policing APP instructs officers to identify the "Primary Perpetrator" to avoid dual arrests.

- a) For the fiscal years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, please provide the total number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the Force.***
- b) For the same period, please provide the total number of "Charging Referrals" (files sent to CPS for a charging decision) flagged with a domestic abuse identifier.***
- c) Dual Arrests: Of the total incidents, please provide the number of incidents where both parties involved in the same incident were arrested ("Dual Arrests").***
 - Please provide a breakdown by gender of the individuals arrested in these "Dual Arrest" cases.***
- d) Resolved Counter-Allegations: Does the Force record data on incidents where counter-allegations were made by both parties, but an arrest/referral was made against only one party (where officers successfully identified a Primary Perpetrator)?***
 - If so, please provide the total number of such incidents for the years requested.***
 - For these "single suspect" counter-allegation incidents, please provide a breakdown by gender of the single individual referred to the CPS.***

- e) **Outcomes:** Does the Force record the charging decisions made by the CPS? If so, in how many "Dual Arrest/Referral" incidents in 2023-2024 was the outcome i) both parties marked "No
- f) **Further Action" (NFA), ii) "Charges against both Parties" or iii) "Charges against only one Party" by the CPS? Where the charges were against only one party, what was the gender breakdown for the period requested?**

2. Quality Assurance & Feedback Loops

- a) **CPS Returns:** For the fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, please provide the number of domestic abuse case files returned by the CPS with an "Action Plan" or request for "Further Evidence" (often coded as TQ1/TQ2 data).
- b) **Root Cause Analysis:** Does the Force conduct formal analysis on files returned by the CPS to identify recurring themes of failure? If so, please list the top five categories of defect identified in domestic abuse files for 2023-2024 (e.g., "Missing Evidence," "Poor Risk Assessment").
- c) **Primary Perpetrator Queries:** Specifically regarding "Dual Suspect" files submitted to the CPS, please provide the number of instances where the CPS contacted the Force specifically to request assistance to determine the "Primary Perpetrator." In how many of these specific instances did the additional police input result in the report against one party being withdrawn and what was the gender breakdown for those withdrawn Charging Referrals?

3. Evidence Gathering & Guidance

- a) **Please provide a copy of any specific operational guidance, flowcharts, or "decision-making matrices" provided to officers to assist them in distinguishing between a "Primary Perpetrator/Dominant Aggressor" and a victim acting in self-defence.**
- b) **999 Calls:** Please provide the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or mandatory guidance issued to attending officers regarding the seizure of "999" call recordings as corroborative evidence in domestic abuse incidents involving counter-allegations.
- c) **Injuries:** Please provide the guidance issued regarding photographing injuries on arrested persons in domestic abuse cases. Is it mandatory to photograph visible injuries on a suspect who claims to have been acting in self-defence?

4. Protocol Compliance: Risk Assessment & Victim Views

- a) **Risk Assessment:** Please provide the total number of domestic abuse incidents in 2023-2024 where a "DASH" (or DARA) risk assessment was not completed.
- b) **Victim Views:** Does the Force's crime recording system have a mandatory field for "Victim Support" of prosecution (e.g., submission of a Victim Personal Statement)?
- c) **Bail Notification:** Please provide the number of "tasking requests" received from the CPS/Witness Care Unit in 2023-2024 requesting police to notify a victim of bail conditions and, of those requests, how many were duly notified and how many did the Force fail to notify?

5. Referrals to Support Agencies

- a) **Please provide the total number of referrals made by the Force to domestic abuse support agencies (e.g., Victim Support, IDVA services) in the fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.**
- b) **Please provide a breakdown of these referrals by gender of the victim.**
- c) **Please provide any guidance or criteria used by officers to determine if a "Dual Arrest" detainee (who also claims to be a victim) is eligible for referral to support agencies.**

6. Training

- a) **Please provide a syllabus or summary of training provided to probationary and serving officers specifically regarding the handling of "Counter-Allegations" in domestic abuse scenarios.**
- b) **Does this training include specific modules on identifying "coercive control", "fake injuries" and "parties acting in collusion" where the suspect and his / her associates / family creates a false narrative of victimhood?**

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 of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to this application. GMP do not record dual arrest or counter allegations separately in a central location for easy extraction, therefore we would have to manually check each DA incident to be able to see how many apply to this FOI. We have over 50,000 DA incidents per year, and to review each one manually would far exceed the limitations set out in the FOIA of 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.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 considerably reduced timeframe due to the number of DA's recorded per year. Alternatively, a reduction in the volume of information required such as reducing to question 1 only as an example. 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.