



Date: 31/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013976/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013976/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The number of non-crime hate incidents recorded by the police force every year, and by year, from 2009 to 2024.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested as exemptions apply.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The requested information is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means** and **Section 22(1)(a) – Information Intended for Future Publication**. GMP publish our hate crime statistics, including non-crime hate incidents on our website. [The information you have requested for January 2010 up to September 2024 can be found here.](#)

Information for the final months of 2024 will be published on the afore mentioned website in due course. Consequently, this information is exempt under Section 22(1)(a). As Section 22(1)(a) is a qualified exemption a public interest test needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds. Therefore, the stance at this time is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.

In accordance with the S17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for the information from 2010 onwards.

The information for 2009 is not exempt and is provided below. It is subject to the following caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains non-crime hate incidents with a created date between 01/01/2009 and 31/12/2009, excluding cancelled records.

We are aware of an issue affecting some crimes with some flags. This issue caused flags to be lost i.e. change from Yes to blank incorrectly during the migration process. The following flags are affected:

- Hate crime flag

Analysis has suggested that GMP recorded hate crimes may be higher than the numbers reported. This appears to be owing to inconsistency in the use of hate crime flags and qualifiers on the recording system. As such we would advise caution in interpreting the level of hate crime reported. We are reassured that all crimes are being recorded, but some may not be flagged as hate which may affect counts and any analysis conducted on this data.

Crime Created on Date : Calendar Year Number	Non-Crime Hate Incident Volume
2009	1082