

Date: 10/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013979/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013979/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

My FOIA request is in relation to the date range 01/01/24 to 31/12/24.

Please provide the following;

- 1. Total number of individuals who have images held in the forces' custody image database across 2024***
- 2. Number of individuals who have had images added to the forces' custody image database***
- 3. Number of individuals who have had all of their images deleted from the forces' custody image database***
- 4. Number of individuals who have been released from custody after receiving no charges***
- 5. Number of individuals who have been released from custody after receiving no charges, and have subsequently had all of their images removed from the forces' custody image database***
 - a. Please also list the number of these individuals (no charges) who have requested to have their custody images deleted***
- 6. Total number of image deletion requests submitted to GMP***
 - a. Also include a numerical breakdown of those accepted or declined***
- 7. Please also confirm if the custody image database is used by any facial recognition services / processes***
 - a. If so, please list which ones.***

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to question 5 of this request along with part 5a without carrying out a manual review. Searches have located over 29,000 individuals who have been released from custody after receiving no charges, however, to understand how many of these have either had or requested their images be removed from our database would require each individual file to be cross referenced between multiple systems to know which have actually been removed and which individuals have requested it. This information is not recorded in a central location nor easily retrievable. Due to the number of results requiring review, GMP would be unable to fulfil this request.

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.

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 the removal of question 5 and a reduction in the volume of information requested. 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.

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 exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Questions 4-6.

4. 26,461

5. Of the 26,461,

6. 167 of which there have been - Accepted – 48, Refused – 111, Other 8.