

Date: 10/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014071/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014071/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide me with the costs associated with the investigation into Alex Batty, who went missing from his home in Oldham in 2017, before emerging in France in 2023.

If within the time allowed, please provide breakdown of costs, including an itemised list of international travel with dates and cost of each.

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 the information requested is held by GMP.

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

GMP would not be able to complete this request in under the 18hrs time limit permitted. The reasons for this are there is a significant period of time where the investigation was worked on by a large number of people from a variety of departments. Every officer that worked on the case would need to be contacted to see if they can provide the number of hours/days they spent working on the investigation. Given the length of this investigation some officers may have moved on or retired and so obtaining this information would not be possible. The investigation has been run on a number of different computer systems, and these older systems are no longer operational and so a manual review will be needed to locate and retrieve any data stored. A full review would need to be completed and due the above reasons this request cannot be completed.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising to obtain a cost of the flights and hotel of the officers who attended Alex in Spain as this may be the only data that may be retrievable. However, 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.