



Date: 24/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014073/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014073/B

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

The number of arson offences reported to the service in the past three calendar years (2022, 2023, 2024). Please note that I require data related to arson (damage or destruction of property with fire) only, and not criminal damage generally.

Please break the results down by the following:

- *Month and year of the report (e.g. January 2022, February 2022, etc.)*
- *Location (As specific as is reasonably possible)*
- *If the investigation led to an arrest (yes/no/ongoing)*
- *If a suspect was formally charged with the crime (yes/no/ongoing)*
- *If the crime caused injuries to a victim or victims (yes/no)*
- *The age and gender (if known) of the offender*

How many suspects were repeat offenders? By 'repeat offender', I refer to having been arrested or suspected of arson within the last five years.

Please provide the response in Excel/Sheets format where possible.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested regarding whether any injuries were caused would involve a manual search of all crime reports for the offences of 56A Arson Endangering Life and 56B Arson Not Endangering Life to see if any injuries were caused.

A search of our records shows that there are 5,091 crimes that would require a manual review. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 424 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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