

Date: 10/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014150/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014150/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

As part of our investigation, we are seeking data from police forces in English-speaking countries to better understand the prevalence and consequences of these crimes.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we kindly request the following statistics on sextortion crimes recorded by your police force over the past five years. Could you please give us a yearly breakdown based on the below:

- 1. The total number of reported sextortion cases.***
- 2. The number of victims who were under the age of 18.***
- 3. A breakdown of the victims by gender.***
- 4. The number of cases where the victim has died by suicide following the crime.***
- 5. The number of cases where the victim has attempted suicide following the crime.***

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

Questions 4 and 5 cannot be completed without a substantial manual review being carried out. A review would be needed to locate and retrieve the information in these 2 questions as this information is not held in a central location on our systems. Each crime will need to be interrogated to be able to provide this part of the request. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per each review, this request would take in the region of 158hrs to complete.

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 with the a reduced time frame or the removal of questions 4 and 5. 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.

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. Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.

- Data is for the past 5 calendar years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).
- The crime grand total is all the crimes counted based on the crime reference HO Code 035/00 Blackmail for the period 01/01/2019-31/10/2023.
- The data returned was then searched for on the keywords 'Sextortion' in the MO Description.
- GMP record one crime per victim, however, one investigation with multiple victims could cause a 'spike' to be seen in the data.
- Q3, relates to All Victims.

Due to some low results, some data has been replaced with X, as by providing all this information as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By replacing the data this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Question 1.

Year	Count of Crimes
2020	15
2021	16
2022	135
2023	1104
2024	636

Question 2.

Year	Count of Victims U18
2020	0
2021	0
2022	22
2023	224
2024	85

Question 3.

Year	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
2020	X	13	X	15
2021	X	12	0	16
2022	9	117	9	135
2023	111	953	40	1104
2024	78	530	28	636