

Date: 10th February 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014166/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014166/J

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

I would like to resubmit my FOI to Greater Manchester Police as follows:

Q1 How many offences recorded under 013/02 'abduction of a child by other persons' (other than a parent) have GMP received during the years of 2018, 2019, 2024 and January 2025, to date, broken down by month.

Q2 Where did these attempted/successful abductions take place?

Q3 When did they take place?

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, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) 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.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

The current available 2025 data has been exempted from disclosure under Section 40(2) Personal Information due to the low numbers returned – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by

Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

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 crimes with a created date between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2019 and 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2024, classified under HO offence 013/02 'abduction of a child by other persons', excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.
- We are aware of various system issues affecting committed at locations for new and migrated crimes (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include crimes that did not happen in that location and/or exclude crimes that did.
 - Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
 - Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies.
- Some crimes do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.

Due to low numbers returned per month, the totals have been merged together as by providing all this information split by month 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 merging this data it can be provided in its entirety.

Year	Total
2018	88
2019	45
2024	87

Due to low numbers returned per year per district, the years have been merged together as by providing all this information split 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 merging this data, it can be provided in its entirety.

District	Total
Bolton	22
Bury	21
Oldham	33
Rochdale	14
Salford	12
Stockport	18
Tameside	18
Trafford	21
Wigan	30

City of Manchester & Airport	31
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