

Date: 06/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013999/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013999/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. For the months of November and December 2024 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "machete" or variants of the spelling to include "machette" and "machetes".***
- 2. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO.***
- 3. Taking the month of December 2024 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention machetes. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].***

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 for question 2 in an easily retrievable format.

A manual review would need to be carried out in order to provide the response needed for question 2. While searches have revealed we hold such data, the appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request. This means the many variants of "machete" in the MO's do not necessarily link this to a crime. To identify if this is linked, a manual review would need to be completed to ensure the accurate response is provided. Initial searches have found 224 logs and at a conservative estimate of 7-10 minutes per each review this part of the request would take in the region of 26hrs 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 removal of question 2 or a reduced time frame. 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.

Please see below

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 01/11/2024 and 31/12/2024 where the Crime Description or Crime MO Description contains keywords "Machete" and "Machette", excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office counting rules. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

Question 1.

Month	Count of Crimes
Nov 2024	121
Dec 2024	103