

Date: 25/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014081/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014081/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I am requesting all information that your force hold in relation to Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Aerial Phenomena sightings for the period 1st January 2024 to the 31st December 2024. This includes all reports made by members of the public or employees of your force that include the following keywords: UFO, UAP, UAV, USO, lights in the sky, aliens, extra-terrestrial beings, drones, orbs This information should include date, time, location and the description given by the reporting person. No personal information of such witnesses should be included. Any reports that relate to vehicle registrations should be ignored. I look forward to receiving this information within the 28-day time period as indicated by the Act

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 be required to undertake a manual review of all the results that fall into scope of this request. Searches have been carried out and revealed over 400 records that fit the above criteria, however, the appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request, e.g. USO/UFO appearing in other words. Due to this a manual review would have to review each record to ensure the data matches what you have asked in this FOI request. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this request would take in the region of 33hrs to fulfil.

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 a reduced timeframe. 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