

Date: 25/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014124/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014124/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

How many people have been arrested for burning the quaran in the last 2 years?
How many people have been arrested for burning the bible in the last 2 years?

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 are unable to answer the above request as burning religious texts is not an offence on its own and would fall under either a public order offence or a criminal damage or arson offence depending how the officer in charge classified the crime. All offences recorded under these banners in the last 2 years would need to be reviewed manually to see how many of them related to this request specifically. An initial search has revealed over 22,000 results and as such this request cannot be completed in under 18hrs.

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 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.

Information Compliance & Records Management Unit, Information Management Branch, Greater Manchester Police Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2NS