

Date: 26/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014147/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014147/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

According to YouTuber pinac-audit (commenting on an edited version of a Charles Veitch video), 30 or 40 police officers turned up to arrest a man who reportedly burned a copy of the Koran:

https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D_voPDipz2Mk&data=05%7C02%7Cfreedomofinformation%40gmp.police.uk%7C771b0292ad714065d2f108dd45ef4ef4%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C638743616316327550%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFoljoiTWFPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=N1fnhxcBCbwC08BRUY%2BKbaUcob7ywZoJIACyueo5zU%3D&reserved=0

1. Please confirm the number of officers who attended the incident in Central Manchester involving the arrest of the man shown in the video.

2. Please provide the number of people arrested since 1/1/24 in connection with burning Korans.

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 for Q2 as burning religious books such as the Koran 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 since 01/01/24 would need to be reviewed manually to see how many of them are in connection with burning Korans. An initial search has revealed over 4,100 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

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving, and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 or the removal of question 2 in its current form. 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.