

Date: 13th February 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014196/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

May you please supply me with the following information...

Q1 The number of under 18s detained in custody overnight by your police force. Please provide the figures per calendar year for the following years: 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

For example: in 2023, 122 under 18s were detained in custody overnight.

Q2 The number of under 18s detained in custody overnight by your police force who were flagged as having special educational needs or disabilities

For example: in 2023, 122 under 18s were detained in custody overnight. Of this group, 15 were identified as having SEND

If it is not possible to provide figures broken down by year can you please collate the figures. For example: between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2024, 700 under 18s were detained in custody overnight. Of this group, 150 were identified as having SEND

SEND definition: According to the Children and Families Act 2014, a child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she—has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she is likely to be within subsection (2) when of compulsory school age (or would be likely, if no special educational provision were made).

A child or young person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which he or she is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which is or has been spoken at home. SOURCE:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/part/3/crossheading/special-educational-needs-etc>

Overnight detention meaning: "The definition used for overnight was spending at least four hours in police custody between the hours of midnight and 8am" SOURCE:
https://howardleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Overnight_in_police_cells_final_summary.pdf

If you believe the contents of any such files are exempt from disclosure, please provide summaries of any such exempt files.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

To provide a response to question 2 of your request would require a manual review of all custody records. An initial search returned 1,554 custody records which would require a manual review. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to provide the requested information.

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.

However, in accordance with Section 16(1) – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit.

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 fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1

Year	Total
2021	215
2022	401
2023	414
2024	524