

Date: 11th March 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/013988/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/013988/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act. Specifically, I would like to know how many offences have been recorded under the non-fatal strangulation offence (s75A Serious Crime Act 2015 (as amended by Domestic Abuse Act 2021), since it was introduced in June 2022. Please could you tell me the following:

- 1. How many crimes of non-fatal strangulation (s75A Serious Crime Act 2015) have you recorded between 7 June 2022 to the 31 Dec 2024, broken down by year? Please include all occurrences, including where this is not the primary offence.*
- 2. Please also provide a count of all other offences associated with the investigations from Q1, i.e. other secondary or primary offences that were recorded at the same time, for example if it was recorded alongside a sexual offence. Please list full offence titles and total count these of linked offences over the time period.*
- 3. For all of the investigations in Q1, please extract and send the redacted crime MO.*
- 4. Please provide a separate breakdown of total victims and suspects count by a) age group (categories: Aged 15 years and under · Aged 16 to 24 years · Aged 25 to 34 years · Aged 35 to 49 years · Aged 50 to 64 years · Aged 65 years and over) and b) gender, linked to investigations from Q1*
- 5. Please provide a separate breakdown of case outcomes: for non-live cases, by outcome type and total count, for investigations from Q1.*
- 6. Please provide a separate breakdown of the total number of arrests where non-fatal strangulation is part of the of the arrest offences.*

If request Q3 takes my request over time exemptions, please disregard it.

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, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemption applies to question 3 of your request.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the populace better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A Public Authority is able to refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business, or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services. This is particularly relevant at this time due to the ongoing demand on GMP's FOI unit which is currently experiencing high workloads and reduced levels of staffing.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies specifically to question 3 of your request:

Burden on the Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information.

The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such question 3 of your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

To provide the data requested would involve manual redactions to each piece of ***data in the crime description*** as they do contain sensitive and personal information which could identify directly/indirectly a living human therefore Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

The number of crimes descriptions which would need to be manually redacted is 5,851 and therefore at a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to review and redact each crime description field, it would take approximately 487.5 hours to ascertain the data required for question 3.

For this reason, any further requests of this nature will be refused under Section 14(1) of the Act, which states that requests that are considered to be vexatious do not have to be complied with.

However, please see below for the results for all the other questions.

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.

Parts 1, 3, and 5:

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 7th June 2022 and 31st December 2024, excluding cancelled crimes, recorded under Home Office offence 008/77 'non-fatal strangulation and suffocation'. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.
- A crime outcome of 'Missing Value' means that the investigation is ongoing and an outcome has not yet been applied.

Part 4:

- This data contains information regarding victims and offenders linked to the crimes in parts 1, 3, and 5.
- Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
 - Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
 - The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.
- There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime. For this reason, the number of suspects is not the same as the number of crimes. Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period, which means that the data cannot be used to identify the number of unique suspects.
- Suspects have been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted.
- There are crimes in this response with no victim attached. These may be state based crimes (which do not need a victim), crimes where the victim has not been identified, or they may be system errors.
- We are aware of a system issue that allows more than one victim to be attached to a crime, which is incorrect as stated in the Home Office Counting Rules.

Part 6:

- This data contains arrests with first arrest date between 7th June 2022 and 31st December 2024, where the HO Custody Offence is 008/77 'non-fatal strangulation and suffocation'.
- It is possible for an arrest record to be created in systems with the custody Home Office offence field showing as blank. This search relies on this field being populated therefore there may be records in the system that reflect arrest events relating to this offence that have not been captured in this data.

- The custody Home Office offence code field is not necessarily the same as the crime latest classification Home Office offence 5-digit code field. There may be crimes linked to arrests in this data set that do not have latest classification Home Office offence 5-digit code of 008/77.

Question 1

Year	Total
2022	806
2023	2,444
2024	2,601

Question 2

GMP are unable to provide 'include all occurrences, including where this is not the primary offence'. There is no field on our system which we can use to search what non primary offences may be. The offence recorded is as per the Home Office counting rules and follows the principal crime rule.

Question 3

Section 14 exemption. Please see above.

Question 4

Victim	Total
Female	4,736
Male	1,067
Missing Value/Unknown	48

Victim	Total
15 and under	461
16 – 24	1,156
25 – 34	1,720
35 – 49	1,804
50 – 64	542
65 and over	122
Unknown	46

Offender	Total
Female	623
Male	5,089
Missing Value/Unknown	369

Offender	Total
15 and under	203
16 – 24	801
25 – 34	1,742
35 – 49	2,141
50 – 64	684
65 and over	142
Unknown	368

Question 5

Outcome	Total
Caution - Adults	41
Caution - Adults Alternative Offence	22
Caution - Youths	2
Caution - Youths Alternative Offence	1
Charged/Summoned	862
Charged/Summoned Alternative Offence	221
Community Resolution	25
Diversionary, Educational, Intervention complete. Further action not in public interest.	17
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.	133
Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police)	2
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available	170
Missing Value	236
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.	2,210
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.	1,850
Named Suspect Identified; Prosecution not in the public interest	26
Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)	2
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility	15
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	5
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence	1
Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.	6
The offender has died (all offences)	4

Question 6

First Arrest Date: Calendar Year Number	Custody Record Number
2022	505
2023	1,768

2024	2,085
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