



Date: 21/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014064/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014064/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Request 1:

I am writing to request the following information relating to non-PND Retrospective Facial Recognition Searches

- 1. The number of RFR searches conducted by your force in each month of 2024*
- 2. A monthly breakdown of the reason for these searches*
- 3. For searches of images of criminal suspects, a monthly breakdown of the offence types searched for.*

Request 2:

I am writing to request the following information relating to PND Facial Recognition Searches:

- 1. The number of PND facial recognition searches conducted by your force in each month of 2024*
- 2. A monthly breakdown of the reason for these searches*
- 3. For searches of images of criminal suspects, a monthly breakdown of the offence types searched for*

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 the data requested in question 3 of each request would involve a manual search of all records related to RFR to establish the information requested.

A search of our records shows that there are over 14,000 records that would have to be reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 1,100 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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