



Date: 05/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014161/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014161/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding knife crime offences recorded in Greater Manchester over the past three years (broken down by year). Specifically, I request:

- 1) *The number of knife crime-related arrests and charges in Greater Manchester for each of the last three years.*
- 2) *A breakdown of offences, including (but not limited to):*
 - a. *Possession of a bladed article in a public place (including schools, if recorded separately):*
 - b. *Threatening with a bladed article in a public place*
 - c. *Assault with injury involving a knife*
 - d. *Attempted murder involving a knife*
 - e. *Murder involving a knife*
 - f. *Robbery involving a knife*
 - g. *Sexual assault involving a knife*

If GMP categorises knife-related offences differently, please provide data using GMP's internal classification system.

- 3) *For the above offences, please provide a separate breakdown for:*

Incidents occurring on school premises (primary, secondary, post-16 education).

Where available, whether the individual involved was a student or non-student.

If any of this information is not available in the requested format, I would appreciate any relevant data you can provide.

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 would involve a manual search of every custody record over the past 3 years to see if the arrest was linked to a crime involving a knife, as our custody management system does not have a knife crime flag.

Over the last three years there have been thousands of arrests. To locate, retrieve and review each file it would take well 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.

A further option would be to request the number of recorded knife crimes and whether they resulted in any arrests and charges. Crimes are recorded in a different way to arrests, so this may be achievable within the 18-hour limit. 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 may still have to be manually assessed to ascertain whether students were involved.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk