



Date: 17/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014296/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014296/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding police incidents at motorway service areas within your jurisdiction. Please provide the following data for the period January 2020 – December 2024.

The total number of times police were called to motorway service areas within your force area during this period.

1. *A breakdown of the nature of the incidents (e.g., theft, violent crime, drug-related offences, anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime, public order offences).*
2. *The number of arrests made at motorway services during this period, if available.*
3. *If possible, a list of the specific motorway service areas included in the data.*

If fulfilling this request exceeds cost/time limits, please advise how it may be refined. I would appreciate the data in CSV or Excel format, if possible.

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 arrest data requested would involve a manual search of all arrests on the Rochdale district to see if they occurred at Birch Services on the M62.

A search of our custody records shows that there are 13,153 arrest records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over a thousand 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