

Date: 04/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014336/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014336/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The total number of offences recorded in which the Class A controlled drug psilocybin, also known as 'magic mushrooms', was named;***
- 2. The number of offences recorded in which psilocybin or Class A mushrooms was the only controlled drug named;***
- 3. The breakdown of how many of the recorded offences resulted in:***
 - a. A caution or reprimand but not arrest;***
 - b. Arrest, where the case was not passed to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS);***
 - c. Arrest, where the case was passed to the CPS.***

I would be grateful if annual data was provided to cover the years 2019-2024

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

To complete this request GMP would be required to complete a manual review to understand which offences from the search results revealed "psilocybin or Class A mushrooms was the only controlled drug named". This review would also extend to ensuring the data provided is accurate for the reason it appears in the MO. We have completed a search of our records for crimes created between 2020 and 2024 (inclusive) where 'psilocybin' or 'magic mushrooms' appeared somewhere in the crime description or crime MO description fields and there are 273 results. At a conservative estimate of 10 minutes per each review this request would take approximately 45hrs to complete.

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.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a reduced time frame. However, 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.