

Date: 11/03/2025

Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014375/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014375/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can I ask the following in respect of 2023/24, 2022/23 and 2021/22.

1: How many patients reported suffering physical attacks while in hospitals in your force area over each of the last three years?

2: Please can you break down the figures, e.g. into assaults, indecent and sexual assaults.

3: How many arrests were made and charges brought against the assailants relating to these incidents?

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.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to this request. As we do not have a field for this specific information, we have completed a search on all assaults and sexual assaults for one year – 2023/2024 and this returned in excess of 43,000 records. Of these, 1,317 contained the key word 'hospital'. However, to establish if the incident meets the criteria for this FOI Request, it would include looking at each of these individual records. This would then be the same process for the remaining years. Under the circumstances, I am confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in doing so would exceed the fees limits.

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.

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 considerably shorter time frame. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.