

Date: 6th March 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014238/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014238/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the following information for your police force area:

- 1. A list of crimes and offences recorded over the past five years (2018–2023 inclusive) that are associated with or contain the word "Hindu" in relation to any of the following:**
 - o The nature of the crime/offence or its stated or supposed motive/reason***
 - o The identity or motivation of the perpetrator***
 - o The identification of the victim***
- 2. For each relevant case, please include:**
 - o The category/type of crime or offence***
 - o A brief description of the nature of the incident***
 - o The location (general area, such as city/town)***
 - o The number of individuals involved (both perpetrators and victims)***
 - o The outcome of the case (e.g., charge, conviction, ongoing investigation)***

If data covering five years is not feasible, please provide information for the past three years 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2024.

Additionally, I would appreciate it if the data could be provided in an Excel or CSV format. If any part of this request exceeds cost limits under the FOI Act, please let me know so I can refine it accordingly.

***Thank you for your time and assistance. I look forward to your response.
Many thanks for your help and kind regards,***

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, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemption applies to ***“A brief description of the nature of the incident”***.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the populace better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A Public Authority is able to refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services. This is particularly relevant at this time due to the ongoing demand on GMP's FOI unit which is currently experiencing high workloads and reduced levels of staffing.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies specifically to the breakdown of ***“A brief description of the nature of the incident”***.

Burden on the Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information.

The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

To provide the data requested, would involve manual redactions to each piece within the crime description field as they do contain sensitive and personal information which could identify directly/indirectly a living human therefore Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

The number crime descriptions which would need to be manually read and redacted as per your request for ***“A brief description of the nature of the incident”*** is 131 therefore at a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to review and redact each crime description, it would take approximately 11 hours to prepare the data required.

For this reason, any further requests of this nature will be refused under Section 14(1) of the Act, which states that requests that are considered to be vexatious do not have to be complied with.

However, please see below for the results for all the other questions.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2023, excluding cancelled crimes, where either the crime MO or crime description fields contain 'Hindu', the offence name or classification contains 'Hindu', the 'perceived religion targeted Hindu (hate crime flag) is equal to 'Y', or the victim or offender religion is 'Hindu'. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.
 - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
 - The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.
- We are aware of various system issues affecting committed at locations for new and migrated crimes (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include crimes that did not happen in that location and/or exclude crimes that did.
 - Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
 - Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies.
 - Some crimes do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.
- There may be more than one offender attached to a crime.
- Suspects have been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted.
- A crime outcome of 'Missing Value' means that the investigation is ongoing and an outcome has not yet been applied.
- There are crimes in this response with no victim attached. These may be state based crimes (which do not need a victim), crimes where the victim has not been identified, or they may be system errors.
- We are aware of a system issue that allows more than one victim to be attached to a crime, which is incorrect as stated in the Home Office Counting Rules.

The total number of recorded crimes is 131.

Due to low numbers returned, the breakdown requested has been split from each other as by providing all this information together would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By splitting this data, it can be provided in its entirety.

Association Type	Total
Victims	104
Offenders	101

District	Total
Bolton	19
Bury	5
CoM Central	19
CoM North	8
CoM South	15
Manchester Airport	2
Oldham	13
Rochdale	9
Salford	12
Stockport	6
Tameside	13
Trafford	3
Wigan	4
Unknown	2

Offence Type	Total
Criminal Damage and Arson Offences	7
Drug Offences	3
Miscellaneous crimes against society	4
Possession of weapon offences	2
Public order offences	33
Robbery	1
Sexual offences	2
Theft offences	18
Violence against the person	60

Outcome	Total
Caution - Adults Alternative Offence	1
Charged/Summoned	7
Charged/Summoned Alternative Offence	5
Community Resolution	2
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.	16
Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police)	1
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available	46
Missing Value	1
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim	32

does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.	
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.	14
Named Suspect Identified; Prosecution not in the public interest	3
Taken Into Consideration	2