

Date: 20/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014438/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014438/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm writing to you to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. Please may I have the below information if available:

- 1. The number of blood tests sent to a lab for testing, taken from suspects of driving under the influence of drugs from June 2021 to June 2024.**
- 2. How many of these tests took under one month to be returned with a result?**
- 3. How many of these tests took between one to three months to be returned with a result?**
- 4. How many of these tests took between three to six months to be returned with a result?**
- 5. How many of these tests took over six months to be returned with a result?**
- 6. How many of these tests were 'lost' or were never returned with a result?**

Can I please have the information split up on a year-by-year basis.

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.

Due to how this type of data is recorded, GMP would only be able to respond to questions 2-6 after carrying out a manual review on each individual record held for this offence. There are over 6000 results located for this request which will all require a review to provide a response. At approximately 5-10 minutes per each record, this FOI would take around 700hrs 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.

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 reduction in the volume of data required over a shorter timeframe. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1.

Caveat - This data is for the number of blood tests sent to a lab for testing for suspected Drug/Drink Driving and not solely for driving under the influence of drugs as this data is not held separately.

- **2024 - 2561**
- **2023 - 3036**
- **2022 - 1110**