

Date: 27/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014462/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014462/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and relates to cannabis farms in the UK.

I would like to know:

- 1. The number of cannabis factories found in your area in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.***
 - I would like to define a cannabis factory as: 'any property that is being used for the purpose to grow/cultivate cannabis plants, whether there is 1 plant or thousands of plants.'***
- 2. I would like to know the largest number of cannabis plants found in a single property.***
- 3. I would like to know the location (street name) of the property where the largest number of cannabis plants were found in a single property.***
- 4. I would like to know how many convictions have occurred because of the discovery of a cannabis factory.***
- 5. I would like to know where these convictions took place.***

Clarification – Use The HO Offence is: 092/21 - Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

GMP would be required to complete a substantial manual review to be able to comply with this FOI request using the HO Offence 092/21 - Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B – Cannabis. A review will be needed to establish the largest number of cannabis plants found in a single property. Our systems do not record this data in a way to easily extract it and so this would be the only method for the results under this HO code. For your chosen time frame there have been over 2,000 crimes recorded and to review each one of these would far exceed the 18hrs permitted to respond.

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 the removal of question 2. 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.

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 – Data provided is the yearly breakdown figures for HO Offence 092/21.

- 2020 – 543
- 2021 – 588
- 2022 – 561
- 2023 – 492
- 2024 - 465

Question 4 & 5 – GMP do not hold prosecution or conviction data as this is held by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Please apply directly to HMCTS for such data.