



Date: 15/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013832/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013832/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/12/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Freedom of Information Request – Data on Human Trafficking and/or Modern Slavery Reports, Investigations and Prosecutions.

We are writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA 2000") to request information regarding the Greater Manchester Police Force handling of human trafficking cases over the past year.

Specifically, we are requesting the following information, broken down by calendar year if possible:

1. *Please provide the total number of reports or complaints related to human trafficking received by the Greater Manchester Police Force each year.*
 - a. *This data should include all initial reports made either (i) directly by individuals or third-party organisations, (ii) through the National Referral Mechanism and/or (iii) by any other means.*
 - b. *When answering this question, please provide copies of any and all documents relating to the recording of victims of trafficking and/or modern slavery referrals.*
2. *Of the reports received (as per item 1), please specify how many cases resulted in an investigation being formally opened each year.*
3. *Of the reports received (as per item 1), please provide the number of Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews conducted in relation to these reports each year.*

4. *Please provide the number of cases, from those investigated (as per item 2), that resulted in prosecutions. Within this data, I would appreciate a breakdown as follows:*
 - a. *Number of prosecutions against the same people that were referred to the police force as potential victims of trafficking and/or modern slavery*
 - b. *Number of prosecutions against the alleged trafficker(s)*
5. *Please provide copies of all documents, guidance, and training materials outlining the procedures followed by Greater Manchester Police Force staff when handling potential human trafficking and/or modern slavery referrals, including, but not limited to, the investigation of reported cases of human trafficking and/or modern slavery.*

We do not expect you to disclose the identities of any individuals in your disclosure of the reports/documents and records requested.

If responding to all of these questions would exceed the costs limit imposed under section 12 FOIA 2000, please (i) answer the questions which you are able to and/or provide a partial/limited response to the questions if necessary; and (ii) advice why a full response exceeds the cost limit and how the request should be refined, in accordance with your obligations under section 16 FOIA 2000.

We look forward to receiving a response within 20 working days, i.e. by 17 January 2025.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in question 3 would involve a manual search of all relevant crime reports to see if an ABE interview was conducted and if so, how many.

A search of our records show that there are 869 crime records that would have to be reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 72 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be

reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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 (see below information), I have supplied information, relative to your request, that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1.

A. 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.

To provide consistency within this response and also due to the ambiguity of the request, "reports or complaints related to human trafficking" this has been answered using the official NRM data. That is all NRMs and DTNS (potential victims of modern slavery and/or human trafficking) reported by GMP or received into GMP. As an additional caveat please note this will include cases for modern slavery overseas.

In 2024, up to 30/11/2024, there were 869 such cases.

4. This information is not held by GMP. Prosecution data is held by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service. Please contact them to obtain this information.

6. Information relating to training can be found on the College of Policing website here [Modern slavery investigation | College of Policing](#).