



Date: 21/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013847/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013847/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/12/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could you provide me with the following information:

- 1. The number of arrests made under suspicion of possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply where that drug was either gamma-butyrolactone -or- GHB -or- both between January 2022 to December 2024*
- 2. The number of arrests made under suspicion of possession of a controlled drug where that drug was either gamma-butyrolactone -or- GHB -or- both between January 2022 to December 2024*
- 3. The number of arrests made under suspicion supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug where that drug was either gamma-butyrolactone -or- GHB -or- both between January 2022 to December 2024*
- 4. The number of chemsex flagged reports held by Greater Manchester Police*
- 5. If any, the number of unexplained chemsex related deaths reported to Greater Manchester Police*

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 the information you have requested is held by GMP.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. There is no specific arrest category for gamma-butyrolactone (GHB). These would be recorded as Class-A (Other) on our custody records system. To provide the data requested in question 1 would involve a manual search of all Class-A (other) drug related arrest records to see which relate to GHB.

A search of our custody records shows that there are 3,082. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 257 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