

Date: 24/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013951/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013951/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Request please provide the following information:

Confirmed or suspected spiking incidents involving vapes or similar over the last 5 years (2020, 21, 22, 23, 24 – i.e. attended / charged / investigated incidents)

I would like this information broken down by the following, where available:

- ***Age***
- ***Gender***
- ***Whether the incident occurred at a place of education, for example school or college***
- ***Whether the victim required any treatment at hospital***
- ***Date of the incident***
- ***The drugs involved i.e. spice, nitazenes***

Background:

I don't know how these offences may be recorded in your system, but the range of crimes listed could include:

- ***Administering drug with intent to commit indictable offence***
- ***Administering poison so as to endanger life***
- ***Use of noxious substances or things to cause harm and intimidate***
- ***Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy***
- ***Administering a substance with intent***

Please where possible cross reference these offences with records that directly mention spiking and vapes.

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 our systems record the type of data requested, GMP would not be able to fully respond without carrying out a manual trawl of all the associated crimes over the last 5 years for spiking. While we are able to locate the number of crimes recorded, to break this down further to understand the if the offence is specially linked to spiking, we would need to review each of the MO's and once this identified the correct number linked to your request, a secondary review will be needed to see which contained "vapes" in the crime. From 2020-2022 alone there are over 33,000 associated crimes recorded and so to review each of these will most certainly exceed the 18hrs permitted to do so.

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 reduced time frame and a reduction in the volume of breakdown data being requested. 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.