

Date: 20/12/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013690/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013690/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The total number of arrests made under or in relation to Operation Wildflower***
- 2. A breakdown of the number of charges given as a result of or in relation to Operation Wildflower, specifying the nature/type of charge and the number of occurrences of that charge***
- 3. The total cost of Operation Wildflower since October 7th 2023***
- 4. A breakdown of the number of Section 60s, Section 12s and Section 14s made under or in relation to Operation Wildflower***

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.

GMP established a dedicated crime team as part of Operation Wildflower. Part of that team's role is to review all incidents logged with GMP that are Wildflower-related. This relies on specific incident codes being used or a key word search, and those key words appearing in the call-takers initial report. This may mean that some Wildflower-related incidents and protests may not have been captured. The review will also apply to any arrests made as a result of further enquiries that may then fall under Op Wildflower. If the incident logs are correctly coded or relevant key words appear, arrests made at the time are captured by the Wildflower crime team. If the incident log generates a crime and a subsequent arrest, this arrest may not be captured, GMP Op Wildflower has captured over 1200 incidents and It would take longer than 18 hours to go back through hundreds of protests, and associated incidents and crimes, to establish exact figures and breakdowns requested above.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the specific HO code that relates to your request along with a selection of keywords we can use to search for any data. 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.