

Date: 20/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013833/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013833/S

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

- ***The number of incidents in which Greater Manchester Police confiscated illegal drugs from schools in Greater Manchester***
- ***Please provide me with two tables:***
- ***The first table should break the total figure down by borough - i.e. how many drugs were seized from school in Bury, in Bolton etc.***
- ***The second table should break the total figure down by type of drug.***

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 are unable to provide an accurate response to this request without completing a thorough review manually. Each log recorded in relation to the requested information will need to be checked to see if it states that the confiscated drug was indeed confiscated from within the grounds of the school premises. When booking in property, the location box is a free text box, however it does not necessarily confirm that Drug A or Drug B was from the exact location recorded. Some logs are recorded with landmarks such as the seizure took place on the pavement outside of the educational setting and therefore the landmark recorded was the school. This review would accurately confirm the number of illegal drugs confiscated from schools in Greater Manchester. Initial searches have revealed over 1500 results and so to complete this request would take in the region of 125hrs at a conservative rate of 5 minutes per each review.

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 to include a short timeframe. As one was not provided, this request has searched all records from the last 10 years or more. 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.