

Date: 13/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013919/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013919/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request data under the Freedom of Information Act on the caseload and time use in the police forces in England and Wales. I would like any data relating to the hours/minutes per day/month and the number of cases that the average police officer dedicates to specific activities. I am specifically interested in the split between time spent on:

First, non-crime demand (like responding to mental health, welfare and social care calls).

Second, core policing responsibilities like patrolling, emergency response, intelligence gathering, prison interviewing, crime prevention etc.

Third, administrative tasks, HR activities like training, staff management etc.

Additionally, I am interested in the data broken down by:

First, data for each year from 2010 (or the earliest year you have available) onwards. If you do not hold longitudinal data, I'd appreciate stock data for the latest year possible.

Second, the hours/minutes per day/month and the number of cases that the average police officer dedicates to specific activities, split by type of police officer (i.e. sergeant, constable etc.) If that's not available, please feel free to disregard this variable.

I understand you might not have the data down to this level of specificity, but I've indicated above some second-best alternatives should you have those to hand instead. If all you have is data relating to either caseload, or time use, please send whichever you have access to.

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to your request. All cases and crime investigations differ and there is no system where this information is centrally held and so a review would need to be carried out by contacting each district individually. Officers are required to record their own workloads to be able to report back if required. The review will need to check each officer's pocketbook to understand the amount of time they worked on X crime along with the amount of time they spent on the admin for such crime/case. Some officers may be moved into larger operations outside their normal duties for short periods so this means recording the amount of time a larger investigation may have taken cannot be provided accurately without speaking to all officers to see if they have worked on such cases. The time required to contact all officers along with reviewing each pocketbook would far exceed the time limits allowed under the FOIA.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.