



Date: 30/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014899/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014899/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Can GMP provide a detailed breakdown of hate crimes reported in Bolton over the past three years, including the types of hate crimes and the demographics of victims and perpetrators?

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.

CAVEATS

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains hate crimes with crime location within GMP district 'Bolton', with a created date between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2024, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

We are aware of an issue affecting some crimes with some crime flags. This issue caused flags to be lost i.e. change from Yes to blank incorrectly during the migration process. The following flags are affected:

- Hate crime flag

- Race hate motivation flag
- Religion hate motivation flag

Hate crimes may have more than one motivation e.g. race and religion. This means that the numbers for each motivation will add up to more than the total number of hate crimes.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that officers are incorrectly applying the disability motivation flag to any crime where the victim has a disability, even if the crime was not motivated by their disability.

Analysis has suggested that GMP recorded hate crimes may be higher than the numbers reported. This appears to be owing to inconsistency in the use of hate crime flags and qualifiers on the recording system. As such we would advise caution in interpreting the level of hate crime reported. We are reassured that all crimes are being recorded, but some may not be flagged as hate which may affect counts and any analysis conducted on this data.

We are aware of various issues affecting committed at locations for some crimes (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include crimes that did not happen in that location and/or exclude crimes that did.

- Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
- Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies.
- Some crimes do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.

Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:

- The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
- The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
- Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
- The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.

There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime. For this reason, the number of rows in the spreadsheet is not the same as the number of crimes. Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period.

Suspects have been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted.

There are crimes in this response with no victim attached. These may be state based crimes (which do not need a victim), crimes where the victim has not been identified, or they may be errors.

We are aware of an issue that allows more than one victim to be attached to a crime, which is incorrect as stated in the Home Office Counting Rules.

Please see the attached spreadsheet for the information you have requested.