



Date: 21/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014981/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014981/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:
The number of reported incidents involving or referencing chemsex (the use of drugs such as GHB/GBL, mephedrone, or crystal methamphetamine during sex) that have been recorded by your police force in the past two calendar years (e.g. 2023 and 2024, or the most recent two years available).*

If possible, a breakdown of these incidents by:

Type of offence or police involvement (e.g. drug-related offences, sexual offences, medical emergencies, safeguarding concerns) Age and gender of the individuals involved (if available and anonymised) I understand that personal data cannot be released, but any aggregated or anonymised data that can give a clearer picture of chemsex-related policing would be greatly appreciated.

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.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes where the keywords "Chemsex", "GHB", "GBL", "Mephedrone" and "crystal methamphetamine" appear to see if they are relevant to your request.

A search of our records shows that there are 252 crimes that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 21 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. Alternatively, you could provide some specific offences to search for. This could reduce the number of crimes that will need to be manually reviewed. A full list of current offences is available from the Home Office Counting Rules here: [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#).

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