

Date: 23/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015044/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015044/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. The number of arrests in relation to protest activity involving or claimed by environmental or climate groups such as Extinction Rebellion, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, or related direct action groups between 2018 and 2025

2. Please provide this data broken down by:

- a. Calendar year of arrest (month and day also if possible)***
- b. Protest group involved***
- c. Name of protest***

If possible please also include:

- Offense category (e.g. obstruction of highway, aggravated trespass, public order offenses)***
- Number of individuals charged vs. released without charge***

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.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to this request. We are unable to answer the above as there is no search parameter for the names of the groups, and so a review of all arrests during the dates specified would be required. As a snapshot, there was over 18,000 arrests in the Bolton district alone and so to review these along with all the other thousands per district would far exceed the 18hrs permitted.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 with a much smaller timeframe.

However, 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.