

Date: 04/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014940/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014940/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

On 15 June 2025, The Times newspaper reported [REDACTED] has previously raised concerns that local authorities, police and courts were all using different definitions of grooming, meaning it was impossible to properly understand and tackle the extent of the crime."

Please can you provide copies of any recorded information held by, or on behalf of, Greater Manchester Police, where [REDACTED] raised concerns about the use of different definitions of "grooming".

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 districts, along with all units within each district would need to be contacted as anyone who wishes to make contact with GMP can do so via many different ways, from official communication channels, or simply via officers working across GM. Its was also involve a manual trawl of emails to see if anything was ever received from all communication methods. This search would be needed with a considerably large time frame span on the search, as we would not know if, to whom and when such concerns would have been raised. Due to the nature of the enquiry and the large task required to locate and retrieve any information held, GMP would not be able to comply in under 18hrs.

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.

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 narrowed down time frame, information on who the concerns may have been raised with, such as district, legal teams etc. 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.