

Date: 26/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014979/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014979/M

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

This is a request under FOIA for details of instances in which Greater Manchester Police (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.

Request

We request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2019 to the date of this request:

- 1. Supplier Name***
- 2. Invoice Date***
- 3. Gross Invoice Value***
- 4. Payment Date***
- 5. Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)***

Clarification:

We reiterate that this request:

- (a) Â Â is limited to information which should (if proper records are kept) be readily available from a purchase ledger system and should therefore be possible to retrieve without any difficulty and without imposing any significant burden;***
- (b) Â Â relates to organisations (not individuals) who are entitled to be paid out of public funds for public services, and we do not require the disclosure of any personal information of any individual person;***
- (c) Â Â does not require the disclosure of any confidential information or information to the production of which there could be any other lawful objection.***

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.

GMP would need to undertake a substantial trawl manually of thousands of invoices over a 6 year period, as our systems do not record this information separately. We would need to check if we'd received the goods / services before the invoice date and to check the invoice wasn't in dispute. To do this volume we would have to deal with each invoice that falls into this category. This would be in the region of approximately 200,000 invoices and so this request cannot be achieved in under 18hrs.

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 reduced time frame.

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.