

Date: 04/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014988/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014988/N

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

Asylum status of suspects charged in cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Asylum status of suspects charged with a sexual offence or offences against a child victim or victims, where the case involved two or more offenders or suspected offenders, broken down as follows:

- ***Number of suspects who were seeking asylum in the UK at the time of charge***
- ***Number of suspects who were neither seeking asylum at the time of charge, nor were known to have previously sought asylum in the UK***
- ***Number of suspects who had been granted asylum in the UK at the time of charge***
- ***Number of suspects who had been refused asylum in the UK at the time of charge***

Timeframe: Information on suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' worth of data that you can retrieve.

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. There is an asylum flag that can be applied to each person's record on our system, so in we could be able to see (through a manual review) how many people have the flag ticked. However, the flag won't tell us whether the person is currently seeking asylum, had asylum approved, or had

asylum refused – that would be a further manual review of internal and external systems and is very dependent upon whether the OIC recorded this information.

A substantial search across multiple systems and departments would be required to see if we hold the data for the Asylum status of an individual. Due to the nature of the specific data type, you require this request would not be able to be completed 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.