

Date: 24/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015047/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015047/H

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

- 1. How many traffic collisions have there been where nitrous oxide has been involved per year?
Please provide data separately for each year: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. Please provide as much data for 2025 as possible closest to the current day.***
- 2. How many of those traffic collisions involving nitrous oxide have resulted in one or more fatalities? Please specify how many for each incident.***
- 3. How many arrests have been recorded for the illegal sale of nitrous oxide from the start of 2019 to the 2nd of July 2025?***

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. We would only be able to look at Contributory Factor data for where 'Impairment Drugs or Impaired by Drugs (illicit or medicinal) had been recorded. This may not always be recorded due to other factors taking priority at the time of recording. Testing for Nitrous Oxide is not testable like Alcohol and Cannabis is as it can leave the body quickly. Based only on the data recorded for the Contributory Factor data for where 'Impairment Drugs or Impaired by Drugs (illicit or medicinal) the following has been recorded we have detected 225 records that would need a manual review of approximately 15 minutes per each one to see if anything is mentioned on file about Nitrous Oxide, however please note, this data would not be accurate due to lack of testing for this.

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(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 reduced time frame and/or the removal of questions 1 and 2 due to the lack of reporting that would provide accurate statistics. 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.