

Date: 25th June 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014638/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014638/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request the following information relating to Facial Matching Checks conducted by His Majesty's Passport Office on behalf of your force:

- ***A copy of any policy held by your force governing the use of these checks, or any Data Protection Impact Assessment regarding these checks as used by your force***
- ***A copy of any breakdown for the crime types linked to the searches requested by your force (whatever level this is held at, whether specific offence, offence types, etc) for calendar year 2024***
- ***The number of requests to HMPO for facial matching checks by your force in 2024, and 2025 as of the date of this request***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. However, GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

For question 2 and 3 of this request the information requested is not held centrally. GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold any information relating to your request. The search/review would involve a manually contacting all GMP officers for them to then manually review their personal records to see if they have submitted a request to HMPO for facial matching. Any data held once the review is conducted may not be accurate to provide under the FOIA. Due to level of work required, to confirm whether the information is held would take over 18 hours.

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.

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

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1 – No information held.

Question 2 – Section 12. Please see above.

Question 3 – Section 12. Please see above.