

Date: 25/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014673/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014673/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Drones:

1. *Does your police force operate a drone program?*
2. *For each year between 2020 and 2024 how many drones has your police force operated?*
3. *How much money has been invested in your police forces drone program, for each year between 2020 and 2024?*
4. *Do you have a designated drone department or are they allocated to individual officers?*
5. *Is drone training implemented internally or externally?*
6. *How much does it cost to train a drone pilot and how many hours does this take?*
7. *What changes are planned within your police force to better integrate drones in front line policing?*
8. *Does your police force have future aspirations to operate drones as first a responder in line with future legislative changes?*
9. *Does your police force share information with other police forces regarding their drone programs, and its future integration?*

EMPASS / Helicopters:

10. *Does your police force own its own deployable helicopter or use EMPASS / similar program?*
11. *For each year between 2020 and 2024, how many times did your police force deploy the helicopter?*
12. *How much did your police force spend on EMPASS / internal helicopter programs for each year between 2020 and 2024?*

Vehicles - For each year between 2020 and 2024:

13. *How many of your police forces vehicles have been involved in road traffic collisions?*
14. *How much has this cost your force in repairs / replacement vehicles?*
15. *What % of your front-line officers are response driver trained (Yankee or golf using Avon and Somerset terms).*
16. *What is the cost of training a response driver?*
17. *How many hours / days does the course take?*
18. *Is this training delivered internally or externally?*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

CAVEATS:

Please note that for questions 2 and 3 we are unable to provide yearly breakdowns. The figures provided cover the four-year period of your request.

Regarding question 13, this information relates to police vehicle collisions only. No information is held prior to 2021. The increase in recent years is due to the amount we now record as the result of supervisory training inputs and the introduction of CRaSH force wide.

1. Yes, GMP operate a drone programme.
2. 8.
3. £58,500
4. Designated unit as part of the 'Specialist Search and Drone Unit'

5. Both. GVC theory training done externally, and practical flight training done internally.
6. Approximately £300 for the theory/GVC course. Further training done in force; whole training programme takes approximately 3 months in total. No information is held on the cost of internal training as this is done during normal working hours.
7. Increase/recruitment of further officers in the Drone Unit and investment in further/newer equipment and technology.
8. No information held.
9. Yes.
10. Greater Manchester Police does not operate a helicopter of its own. The National Police Air Service (NPAS) provide aerial support when required. NPAS is operated by West Yorkshire Police. Please contact them for further information.
11. No information held. Please contact West Yorkshire Police for this information.
12. No information held. Please contact West Yorkshire Police for this information.
13. Information is only held from 2021.

Date	Number of Police Vehicle Collisions
2021	424
2022	403
2023	636
2024	715

14.

Year	Sum of Total
2020/21	271,928.58
2021/22	598,743.46
2022/23	619,326.83
2023/24	503,605.93
2024/25	204,257.25
Grand Total	2,197,862.05

15. 74.6%

16. This is a nominal figure as the training is delivered internally, however the total cost is £3,007.31

17. The response driver training course is a 3-week course, which is prescribed by the College of Policing.

18. All response driving courses are delivered internally.