



Date: 09/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014737/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014737/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide the following information:

- 1) *The number of unlicensed music events (illegal raves) that police have been called to in the past five calendar years (2019-2024).*
- 2) *The number of individuals arrested for attending or hosting an unlicensed music event in the past five years*
- 3) *The number of individuals who have been fined for attending or hosting an unlicensed music event in the past five years, and the total sum that has been collected in fines for that period.*
- 4) *The age of the youngest person arrested or fined at an unlicensed music event each year. Please specify if they were arrested or fined.*
- 5) *The number of under 18s recorded as being at an unlicensed music event each year.*

Please break down the figures by calendar year.

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.

However, Greater Manchester Police does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in question 1 would involve a manual search of all 999 and 101 calls received by GMP between 2019 and 2024. GMP are unable to determine the number of calls that are made to us in relation to raves as not every call result in an incident, and until an incident is recorded, we are unable to determine the nature of the call. Call data represents the volume/quantitative side such as how many calls we received, the duration of each call, the number of unanswered calls, etc. It does not provide any details about the content of the calls. This information comes from the Call Handler documenting the call, which then becomes incident data.

GMP received 1,332,162 calls from the public in 2024 alone. To go back to the required time frame, and determine the nature of each call, it would require the calls to be listened to in full, and this would far exceed the time restrictions of an FOI request.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. Another option would be to request incident data, rather than call data. 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