

Date: 9th June 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014749/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014749/A

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

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. For 2024
 - a. 1. Using the key words 'Roblox', 'Fortnite', 'Clash of Clans', 'world of Warcraft', 'Minecraft' and 'FIFA', the number of reports of crimes involving online computer games.
 - b. The category of offence under which the report was logged - for example sexual activity of a child under 13
2. For 2023
 - a. 1. Using the key words 'Roblox', 'Fortnite', 'Clash of Clans', 'world of Warcraft', 'Minecraft' and 'FIFA', the number of reports of crimes involving online computer games.
 - b. The category of offence under which the report was logged - for example sexual activity of a child under 13
3. For 2022
 - a. 1. Using the key words 'Roblox', 'Fortnite', 'Clash of Clans', 'world of Warcraft', 'Minecraft' and 'FIFA', the number of reports of crimes involving online computer games.
 - b. The category of offence under which the report was logged - for example sexual activity of a child under 13

Please can I have these sent to me electronically on a spreadsheet.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary. I would like to remind you of your duty under section 16 of the Freedom of Information act to offer such advice and assistance on a request if necessary.

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Result of Searches

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

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2024 where the crime description or crime MO description contains 'roblox', 'fortnite', 'clash of clans', 'world of warcraft', 'minecraft', or 'fifa', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB. Please note:
 - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
 - The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.
 - The crime descriptions have been manually reviewed to determine if the crime is relevant to this request. Any crimes not deemed relevant have been removed.

Year	Total
2022	30
2023	52
2024	46

Due to low numbers returned the offence groups have been merged as by providing all this information split by year as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By merging this data it can be provided in its entirety.

HO Offence Group	Total
Abuse of Children through Sexual Exploitation	1
Assault with injury / 8S Assault with injury on a constable /8T Assault with injury on an emergency worker (other than a constable)	2
Assault without Injury	7
Blackmail	4
Criminal Damage - Residential	1
Harassment	10

Malicious Communications	31
Modern Slavery	1
Obscene Publications etc	15
Other Theft	3
Public Fear Alarm or Distress	4
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment	1
Sexual Activity involving a Child under 13	14
Sexual Activity involving a Child under 16	5
Sexual Assault on a Female Child under 13	1
Sexual Assault on a Male Child under 13	1
Sexual Grooming	19
Shoplifting	1
Stalking	4
Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	1
Threat or possession with intent to commit Criminal Damage	1
Threats to Kill	1