

Date: 24/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014882/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014882/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to the handling of stalking and harassment cases by your police force. This request focuses on potential misidentification of victims, the use and misuse of Community Resolutions, and the treatment of individuals with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

◆ **Part 1 – Misidentification and Arrest of Victims**

1. ***Between 2018 and 2024, how many individuals were:***
 - A. ***Arrested on suspicion of stalking or harassment.***
 - B. ***Later identified as the victim rather than the perpetrator.***
 2. ***Of those cases, please provide any available breakdown by:***
 - A. ***Gender (with particular focus on women where misogyny may have played a role).***
 - B. ***Sexual orientation (including cases involving homophobic abuse).***
 - C. ***Disability or mental health conditions (e.g., bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, PTSD, autism spectrum, anxiety disorders).***
 - D. ***Race/ethnicity.***
 - E. ***Any recorded intersectional vulnerabilities, where multiple protected characteristics may be relevant.***
 3. ***Of those misidentified and arrested:***
 - A. ***How many were detained in custody.***
 - B. ***How many were released without charge.***
 - C. ***How many resulted in no further action.***
 4. ***Are there any internal reviews, case audits, guidance, or training materials regarding:***
 - A. ***Misidentification of victims in stalking/harassment or domestic abuse incidents.***
 - B. ***Mistaken arrests involving individuals with protected characteristics.***
 - C. ***Handling of cases involving vulnerable or marginalised individuals.***
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◆ **Part 2 – Use and Misuse of Community Resolutions (CRs)**

5. **Between 2018 and 2024, how many Community Resolutions were issued for:**
 - a. **(a) Stalking.**
 - b. **(b) Harassment.**
6. **Of these, please specify how many involved individuals with the following protected characteristics:**
 - a. **Mental health conditions.**
 - b. **Disability.**
 - c. **Gender (female-identifying individuals).**
 - d. **Sexual orientation (including LGBTQ+).**
 - e. **Race/ethnicity.**
7. **In how many cases:**
 - a. **Was the alleged victim not informed of the CR before it was applied?**
 - b. **Was the CR applied without the victim's consent or knowledge?**
 - c. **Were individuals led to believe the CR constituted mutual agreement or offered protective benefit, when that was inaccurate?**
8. **Are there any internal reviews, complaint investigations, IOPC referrals, or safeguarding concerns documented about:**
 - a. **Inappropriate or non-consensual use of Community Resolutions.**
 - b. **Use of CRs in stalking or harassment cases involving vulnerable groups.**
 - c. **Misleading representations of CRs to victims or those misidentified as perpetrators.**

I understand that some personal or sensitive data may need to be redacted, and that aggregated or statistical information is preferred where appropriate. If this request exceeds cost/time limits, please advise how it may be refined.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to parts of this request without carrying out a manual review. Questions 1b, 2B and E, 3(all) and Q8 would fall under the review that is needed to complete this FOI in full.

Question 1b, is not something that is recorded on our systems and is usually something that is identified after an arrest has been made. For the requested timeframe, over 20,000 arrests would need to be trawled through to answer this question.

Question 2 B&E would need reviewing due to how we record data. Sexual orientation is not routinely recorded and so we would require a review of each arrest to understand if we hold the information being asked, and homophobic abuse along with intersectional vulnerabilities is not a searchable field on our systems and so this information if held would only be gathered by completing the manual checks.

Question 3 would need manual review because the search parameter would only show the final outcome and manual review of the custody log to see what happened initially would be required.

Regarding question 8, there is no specific way of logging complaints/concerns regarding Community resolutions. To locate and retrieve any information held would involve a manual review of cases across several allegation types to identify cases that fit the criteria – Just from 2020 to present day

that would relate to over 11,500 cases as the allegation categories are the most common type logged by PSD. It would then still exceed the 18hrs to search further by contacting each unit/district to understand if any other complaints had been submitted by different channels

With the above, GMP would not be able to facilitate this FOI in under 18hrs as per the FOIA.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the removal of the questions in scope for manual review (1a, 2b/e, 3(all) and 8)

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.