

Date: 30th May 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014693/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014693/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to submit the following questions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please provide information for the following for the years: 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- 1. How many incidents did you attend which involved a person possessing a crossbow?***
- 2. How many people under the age of 18 were found to be in possession of a crossbow?***
- 3. Of the overall number of incidents, how many involved a fatality?***
- 4. How many crossbows did you seize per 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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

To determine the total number of crossbows seized would require a manual review of all property seizures which fall under the subcategory of 'crossbow'. This category includes items seized which relate to crossbows for example, arrows. Therefore, a manual review would be required of each

description field to determine what was seized. From the initial search there is a total of 366 seizures under subcategory 'crossbow' which would require a manual review. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record would take this request to in excess of 30.5 hours to ascertain the data required for question 4.

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.

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 fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Results

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.

Part 1:

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2024, recorded under crime tree level 4 'possession of weapon offences', where the phrases 'crossbow', 'cross bow', or 'cross-bow' are mentioned somewhere in either the crime description or crime MO description fields, where the incident linked to these crimes has an attendance arrival time, 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.

Part 2:

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2024, recorded under crime tree level 4 'possession of weapon offences', where the phrases 'crossbow', 'cross bow', or 'cross-bow' are mentioned somewhere in either the crime description or crime MO description fields, where the offender was under 18 at the time of the crime, 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.
- Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.

- Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
- The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.

General:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.

Question 1

Year	Total
2022	11
2023	6
2024	15

Question 2

Zero.

Question 3

Zero.
