



Date: 07/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014550/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014550/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request the following information regarding arrests made by your police force from 1 January 2015 to the present date, specifically:

The total number of arrests made under:

Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988

Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003

A detailed breakdown of these arrests, specifying:

How many were related to domestic abuse.

How many were related to offensive or abusive posts on social media.

How many were related to any other reasons (please specify).

Please provide this information broken down annually.

I would prefer the data to be sent electronically in spreadsheet format (e.g., Excel) if possible.

Thank you very much for your assistance. I look forward to your response within the statutory time frame.

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 provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all custody records related to the offences in your request to see if the arrest related to domestic violence or social media.

A search of our custody records shows that there are 5,885 records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 490 hours to ascertain the data required.

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. 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