

Date: 02/05/2025

Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014567/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014567/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Request 1.

- 1. The total number of stalking and harassment offences cases your police force has dealt with per financial year, for the past five years. Please display the total case numbers for stalking and harassment separately.***
- 2. The total number of stalking and harassment cases in which a physical tracking device was used. This can include an AirTag, SmartTag, Tile, GPS tracker, car tracker. Please display the total case numbers for stalking and harassment separately, and provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.***
- 3. The total number of stalking and harassment offences in which a digital tracking device was used. This can include a social media tracker, Life360, phone App tracker. Please display the total case numbers for stalking and harassment separately, and provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.***
- 4. The total number of controlling / coercive behaviour cases your police for has dealt with per financial year, for the past five years.***
- 5. The total number of controlling / coercive behaviour cases in which a physical tracking device was used. This can include an AirTag, SmartTag, Tile, GPS tracker, car tracker. Please provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.***
- 6. The total number of controlling / coercive behaviour cases in which a digital tracking device was used. This can include a social media tracker, Life360, phone App tracker. Please provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.***

Request 2.

- 1. Please can you tell me the total number of Stalking Protection Orders that have been applied for by your police force? Please give this data per financial year, for the past 5 years.**

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 the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

Unfortunately, due to the way in which the data is held in our systems for this type of request, we do not have a field to identify which type of tracking device has been used such as physical or digital and therefore cannot separate this for you as required. This would require a manual review of each crime of which there are over 200. At approximately 7-10 minutes per each check, this request would exceed the 18hrs permitted to respond in full.

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 requesting a separation into which tracking devices have been detected. 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.

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 fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Caveat

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.

- The crime grand total is the volume of victims of crimes using the HO Codes listed below for the period 01/04/2020-31/03/2025. The data is provided by calendar year as per the request.
- Where possible duplicates have been removed.
- The data is based on the date the crime was created and not when the crime was committed.
- In order to establish if the crime involved a Tracker the keyword 'Tracker' was searched on. However, this may not be all the results as some crimes may have involved a tracker and may not have been recorded.

Due to some low results, some crime totals have been replaced with X, as by providing all this information 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 replacing the data this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Financial Year	Stalking Crimes	Harassment Crimes	CCB Crimes
2020/ 2021	4,978	28,223	1,709
2021/ 2022	8,369	39,319	2,519
2022/ 2023	9,571	44,666	3,343
2023/ 2024	10,771	37,423	3,626
2024/ 2025	11,107	27,384	3,656

With 'Tracker'	Stalking Crimes	Harassment Crimes	CCB Crimes
2020/ 2021	9	5	X
2021/ 2022	12	X	5
2022/ 2023	26	X	11
2023/ 2024	30	X	21
2024/ 2025	45	5	21

Full HO Codes used
008/29
008/30
008/31
008/56
008/58
008/65
008/66
008/71
008/72
008/74
125/68
195/12
195/94
008/67

