

Date: 02/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014598/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014598/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. How many children (under 18) have been charged with possession of an offensive weapon in the last year?***
- 2. How many children were charged with possession of an offensive weapon on school premises in the last year?***
- 3. What is the age of the youngest child caught with an offensive weapon in your patch in the last year?***
- 4. How many children (under 18) were charged with possession of an offensive weapon in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?***

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.

However, I am not obliged to supply all the information as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 3 is exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual/s, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

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.

Q's 1 & 4.

- This data contains crimes classified under crime tree level four as 'possession of weapon offences', with a GMP latest outcome code of '1A' (charged) and with a latest person outcome date between '1st January 2021' and the '14th April 2025', where the person age at time of crime was under 18, 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.

Q 2.

- This data contains crimes with a GMP latest outcome code of '1A' (charged), with a latest person outcome date between '14th April 2024' and '14th April 2025', where the person age at time of crime was under 18, and which falls under one of the following HO offences, 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.
- o 008/27 Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises
- o 008/28 Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises
- o 008/62 Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises
- o 008/63 Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises;
- 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.

Question 1 and 4.

Outcome Date Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Count of Unique Suspects	74	165	162	181	47

Question 2.

181