

Date: 28/04/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014613/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014613/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

The number of reported incidents received by your police force from members of the public or your own officers that involve the following terms in their descriptions or classifications:

Ghosts

Demons

Monsters

Paranormal phenomena

Supernatural entities

Poltergeists

Apparitions

UFO's

Aliens

Other similar terms associated with paranormal or supernatural activity.

The time period I am requesting covers the past five years, from 1st January 2020 to 1st January 2025, broken down year by year.

Additionally, if available, please provide any information or estimates regarding the cost to the police force of responding to these incidents broken down year by year, either as individual call-outs or an average cost per type of report.

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.

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.

- This data contains incidents with a created date between 01/01/2020 and 01/01/2025 where the title, details or contact comments contains 'Ghost', 'Demon', 'Monster', 'Paranormal phenomena', 'Supernatural entities', 'Poltergeist', 'Apparition', 'UFO', or 'Alien' excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training. Please note:
 - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
 - The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

Year	Count
2020	295
2021	286
2022	330
2023	489
2024	516
Total	1916

Regarding providing estimates for the latter part of you request - Please note that there is no obligation on an Authority under the FOIA to create information where none currently exists simply to answer an FOI request.