



Date: 20/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014645/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014645/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to amend my Freedom of Information request, to hopefully fit within the appropriate cost limit.

Please can you provide the following information for the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 calendar years:

- 1. How many stop and searches in which a knife was found were conducted*
- 2. How many stop and searches on under 18-year-olds in which a knife was found were conducted*

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in question 1 would involve a manual search of all stop and search records where the object searched for is "offensive weapon" and where an object was found. A manual review would be required to identify which of those weapons was a knife.

A search of our stop and search records shows that there are approximately 1,700 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 142 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