

Date: 20th May 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014791/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014791/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Hope you are well. I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Q1 - The number of criminal investigations opened by your police force into women on suspicion of illegally ending a pregnancy every year from 2016 to 2024

Q2 - Please provide a single figure for each year (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), taking the date as the year the inquiry was opened

Q3 - Please also break down these yearly figures into 'no further action' OR 'charge made' OR 'investigation ongoing'

Q4 - Please do not include more than one entry where the same individual has been investigated more than once on suspicion of illegally ending their pregnancy

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 provide all the information requested as exemption applies.

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 crimes with a created date between 2016 and 2024, where the latest classification is within Home Office offences 014/01 'administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion' or 014/02 'procuring drugs etc. to cause abortion', 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.
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.

The total number of crimes is 6.

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.

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

The breakdown requested in question 2 – 4 has been exempted from disclosure under Section 40(2) Personal Information – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, 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.