

Date: 08/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014625/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014625/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

REFINED REQUEST - FOI/25/014623/N

." I therefore request that you review your decision and supply the following refined information, which I anticipate will fall below the appropriate limit:

1. Arrests from Secure Psychiatric Hospitals (2020–2024)

• What I now require: Annual totals of individuals arrested directly from medium security and high security psychiatric hospitals or units in Greater Manchester, for each calendar year 1 January 2020–31 December 2024.

• Why: Simple numeric totals by hospital security level should be readily extractable from your custody or custody hospital interface systems without manual review of individual records.

2. Neurodivergent Crisis Escalations & Use of Force (Requests 2 & 4)

• Proxy flag query: Please confirm whether GMP holds any proxy indicators (e.g. mental health markers, disability codes, self declared impairment flags) that might be used to identify individuals with neurodivergent conditions.

• Policy documentation: If no such flags exist, please supply any internal guidance, equality impact assessments, or policy documents explaining GMP's rationale for not recording neurodivergent status at all.

Equality Duty Note:

Neurodivergence (e.g. autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder) is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Public bodies are expected to monitor and report on outcomes for people with protected characteristics; thus, Greater Manchester Police's admission that it does not systematically record neurodivergent status suggests a breach of its Public Sector Equality Duty. Please supply any equality impact assessments or steps being taken to remedy this gap.

3. Policies, Training & Procedures (Request 5).

• Documents required: Copies of all policy documents, training curricula, standard operating procedures, and attendance records (dates and providers) issued to officers between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2024 relating to the handling of individuals in mental health crisis or identified as neurodivergent.

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.

GMP would not be able to provide the number of arrests directly from medium security and high security psychiatric hospitals or units in Greater Manchester for the time period requested as specific places of arrests is not how our systems record this data. Arrests are recorded based on the district in which it took place in and so a manual review of all the arrests would need to be carried out to understand what information we hold based on what you have asked for. A snapshot reveals that during the time frame above, Bolton District had over 15,000 arrests and so to review each one along with all other districts will most certainly exceed the time limits permitted.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 specific location of an arrest. However, 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.