

Date: 21/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014738/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014738/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. For the total number of deployments of incapacitant spray/tasers from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025

- **A breakdown of the circumstances of these deployments.**
- **A breakdown of the type of incapacitant spray/taser that was deployed.**
- **Further clarification: when I refer to "deployment", this includes a taser being drawn from its holster without being fired.**

2. For the provision of the total number of authorisations for the deployment of attenuating energy projectiles/armed response units from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025

- **A breakdown of the reasons for why the authorisation was given in each instance..**

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would not be able to supply any details of the breakdown of these deployments/circumstances, nor what type of Taser was used without carrying out a manual review across each individual record. Our system does not have any field that allow for an easy extraction of this part of the request. There have been over 50,000 records in the last 12months, and to review each one of this would far exceed the time limits permitted to do so.

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 to ask for the ***total number of deployments of incapacitant spray/tasers from January 2022 to as recently as possible in 2025*** only.

Please note – GMP do publish Use of Force statistics via our website -

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/police-forces/greater-manchester-police/areas/greater-manchester-force-content/sd/stats-and-data/use-of-force/>

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.