



Date: 26/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015592/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015592/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information:

Please provide the number of arrests made in Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester city centre, from 1 January 2025 to the most recent date available, for each of the following offence categories:

1. *Possession of a controlled substance (all Classes A, B, and C). If possible, please provide a breakdown by drug class (A/B/C).*
2. *Possession of a controlled substance with intent to supply (all Classes A, B, and C). If possible, please provide a breakdown by drug class (A/B/C).*
3. *Possession of an offensive weapon*
4. *Possession of a bladed article*

This request is made in the public interest to understand arrest trends and enforcement activity in a key public area within Manchester city centre.

If any information is withheld or not available, please release all non-exempt data and specify which FOIA exemption(s) have been applied.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. It is not possible to search our arrest records for arrests at a particular location. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all arrests for drug and weapon offences in the City of Manchester Central district to see if they occurred at Piccadilly Gardens.

A search of our custody system records show that there are over 600 arrest 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 50 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.