

Date: 18/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015702/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015702/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information regarding cannabis farm operations within your jurisdiction from September 2021 to September 2025:

- 1. The total number of cannabis farms detected or investigated by your force each year.*
- 2. The average estimated size of these cannabis farms (number of plants or premises size), if available.*

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. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crime records for the following offences to determine the volume of the cannabis farm:

- 092/21 – Production of a Cannabis Plant
- 092/41 – Supplying or Offering to Supply a Controlled Drug (Cannabis or Cannabis Resin)
- 092/81 – Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Supply (Cannabis)
- 093/21 – Permitting Premises to be Used for Unlawful Purposes (Cannabis)

A search of our crime records shows that there are 940 crime 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 78 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.