



Date: 24/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015732/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015732/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could you provide me with the below statistics.

How many arrests were made for racially aggravated offences and homophobia related offences during football match operations during the 2024/25 season and the current season (from August 2024 to now) at the following stadiums:

*Old Trafford (Manchester United)
Etihad Stadium (Manchester City)*

Please could you break it down per month.

Please could you provide me with the outcome of each offence (i.e. charged, released without charge, caution, etc)

Please could you also provide me with the details of which fixtures the arrests were made at and which clubs the arrested fans were supporting?

Please could you also provide me with details of the racial aggravated offences (e.g. what form of racism, antisemitism etc) and homophobia related offences and whether it was directed at fans or players?

Please could you provide the results in a table on an excel spreadsheet, with racially aggravated and homophobia related arrests in separate columns.

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, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information as exemptions apply.

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. The information you have requested relating to the team the arrested person was supporting, the outcome of the investigation and the precise circumstances of the incidents is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions: **Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities** and **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**.

Section 40(2) represents information that identifies a living individual. To disclose this information would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test for such data.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose information relating to the specific nature of the incidents into the public domain would show GMP's accountability and satisfy the public that investigations into racially and homophobic aggravated crime at football matches are being conducted. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about the investigations however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to investigations that remain ongoing may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

We can provide the number of arrests at each stadium and the fixtures at which they occurred.

Racially Aggravated arrests at the Etihad stadium 2024/25 season to the current season

MCFC V Arsenal 22/09/2024

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Sparta Prague 23/10/2024

- 2x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Chelsea 25/01/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Club Brugge 29/01/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Real Madrid 11/02/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Wolves 02/05/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Tottenham 23/08/2025

- 2x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Napoli 18/09/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MCFC V Burnley 27/09/2025

- 2x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

Racially Aggravated arrests at Old Trafford during the 2024/25 season to the current season

MUFC V Tottenham 29/09/2024

- 2x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Chelsea 03/11/2024

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Leicester 10/11/2024

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Southampton 16/01/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Rangers 23/01/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Real Sociedad 13/03/2025

- 2x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Olympique Lyonnais 17/04/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated Common Assault
- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Burnley 30/08/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

MUFC V Brighton 25/10/2025

- 1x Arrest for racially aggravated public order

Homophobic Arrests: MUFC

MUFC v Brighton 25/10/2025

- X1 arrest public order.