

Date: 30/10/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015666/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015666/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding fireworks-related incidents involving animals or pets.

Specifically, I am seeking data for each of the following calendar years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and any available partial data for 2025.

Please provide:

1. The number of fireworks-related incidents involving animals or pets recorded between 1 October and 31 December for each year.

If possible, please provide a daily or weekly breakdown of these incidents during this period, to show any dates with notable peaks or spikes in activity (e.g. around Bonfire Night, Diwali, or New Year's Eve).

2. The total number of fireworks-related incidents overall (including those not involving animals) during the same October-December period, for context.

3. The number of public complaints or reports made to GMP relating to fireworks and their impact on animals or pets, for the same period.

4. Any internal reports, summaries, or analyses that identify seasonal peaks in fireworks-related incidents or complaints, particularly those involving animals.

5. Where possible, please provide a breakdown by animal type (e.g. dog, cat, horse, livestock, wildlife, other) for the fireworks-related incidents involving animals described above.

For clarity, by "fireworks incidents involving animals," I mean any reported incident, complaint, or call for service where fireworks caused distress, injury, or harm to animals - including domestic pets (such as dogs and cats), livestock, horses, or wildlife - or where such animals were mentioned in the incident record or call notes.

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 the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

We would be unable to respond to questions 1, 3 and 5 of this request without completing a manual review of over 4000 incidents due to the way in which this data would be stored on our systems. We do not have a field to select that easily identifies if any results involve pets or animals. Each incident will need to be checked to extract these parts of the request. At a conservative rate of approximately 5 minutes per each record, this FOI would take over 300hrs to comply with.

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 a reduced timeframe. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains incidents with a created date between 01 October 2020 and 15 October 2025 in October, November, or December, where the closing code is D91 – Fireworks, excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training.

Question 2.

Created Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Incident Volume	1211	442	594	757	968	113

Question 4.

No information held.