



Date: 27/10/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015462/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015462/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to make an open government request for information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024.

1. *How many individual children (those aged 0 – 17) were reported missing in your policing area?*
2. *How many missing incidents were reported in relation to those missing children (those aged 0 – 17)?*
3. *How many of those missing incidents had a:*
 - a. *Sexual exploitation marker*
 - b. *Mental health marker*
 - c. *Criminal exploitation marker*
 - d. *Trafficking marker*
4. *In how many incidents was there evidence of harm having occurred?*
5. *In how many of those incidents in question 4 was the harm:*
 - a. *Physical*
 - b. *Sexual*
 - c. *Self-harm*
 - d. *Suicide*
 - e. *Emotional / psychological*

6. *If you routinely record another type of risk marker / type of harm that is not listed here, please also include that information and the number of incidents in which it was recorded*

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.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in questions 3, 4 and 5 would involve a manual search of all missing person incidents to see if the requested markers have been applied or if any harm had occurred.

A search of our records shows that there are over 15,000 incidents 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 1,250 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