



Date: 21/10/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015542/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015542/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding complaints resulting from the use of fireworks, and incidents investigated, within your area.

For the years 2019 - 2024, please provide the number of and nature of fireworks-related complaints received (for eg noise, use in a public place, anti-social behaviour etc), by month, in the table attached.

For the years 2019 - 2024, please provide the number of and nature of (for eg noise, use in a public place, anti-social behaviour etc) fireworks-related incidents investigated, by month, in the table attached.

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 an exemption applies.

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 nature of the firework incidents is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 14(1) - Vexatious Requests.**

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the public better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A public authority can refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies to your request: **Burden on the Authority.** [How do we consider burden, motive and harassment? | ICO](#)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information. The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information, and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO, and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such, this part of your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on GMP. To provide the data requested relating to context would involve manual review and redactions to the "Title" field of each incident within the scope of your request so they do not contain operationally sensitive and personal information which could identify directly or indirectly a living human therefore Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement and Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

As can be seen from the information that has been provided, there are over 6,000 incidents that would have to be manually reviewed and redacted. I calculate the time needed to review and redact these documents would exceed 500 hours. This would clearly cause a grossly oppressive burden on GMP.

The rest of the information you have requested is not exempt and is provide below. It is subject to the following **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 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2024 with the closing code D91 - Fireworks, excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	24	26	24	24	33	30
Feb	19	5	7	10	14	22
Mar	9	13	9	9	5	9
Apr	21	11	8	4	8	8
May	15	8	8	14	14	11
Jun	20	34	7	18	21	13
Jul	17	26	19	23	14	20
Aug	19	33	39	36	46	47
Sep	109	127	26	104	37	86
Oct	453	674	146	286	366	436
Nov	562	515	272	283	371	512
Dec	27	22	24	25	20	20