



Date: 28/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015224/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015224/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. The time period for all questions is 1 July 2024 to 30 July 2025. The location is within your police force's jurisdiction.

1. *How many times were police officers dispatched to incidents at Co-op Group stores (including adjacent areas such as car parks) within your area during this period?*
2. *Of these incidents, how many:*
 - a. *Resulted in an arrest?*
 - b. *Involved violence, threats, or abuse directed at retail staff or shop workers?*
3. *How many reported incidents at Co-op stores during this period were classified as: a. Assault on a shop worker (or equivalent classification)? b. Public order offences involving abuse or threats toward shop staff?*
4. *If available, how many of these incidents involved a lone worker (i.e. only one member of staff present at the time of the incident)?*

If possible, please include any relevant incident codes or classifications used, and clarify any limitations in how this data is 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.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. As there is no specific offence of assault on a shop worker, to provide the data requested in questions 2b, 3 and 4 would involve a manual search of all assaults and public order offences to see which occurred at Co-Op stores, which involved shop staff as victims and how many staff were present at the time. A keyword search for “co-op” “co-operative” or similar would not be feasible for your request as this would result in many irrelevant results, such as crimes at Co-Op Live or any other similarly named place.

Therefore, it is anticipated that 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. 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