

Date: 29/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015063/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015063/H

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

This is a request for information under the FOI Act 2000.

Here are my questions:

1 - How much has the force paid to police informants in the following financial years:

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

2 - How many CHIS (Covert Human Intelligence Sources) Handlers did you have on staff in the following financial years:

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21

2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

3 - What were the staffing costs (total salary costs) for CHIS Handlers in the force in the following financial years?

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

How many surveillance officers did you have on staff in the following financial years:

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

4 - What were the staffing costs (total salary costs) for surveillance officers in the force in the following financial years?

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

5 - How many digital and cyber surveillance staff (for example, but not limited to: cybercrime specialists, digital media investigators) did you have on staff in the following financial years:

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21

2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

6 - What were the staffing costs (total salary costs) for digital and cyber surveillance staff (for example, but not limited to: cybercrime specialists, digital media investigators) in the force in the following financial years?

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

7 - What was the total annual expenditure on technical surveillance equipment (including but not limited to: listening devices, trackers, static or mobile CCTV units, night vision or thermal cameras, drones) for the following financial years:

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

8 - What was the total annual budget of the force for the following financial years:

2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
2018/19
2019/20
2020/21
2021/22
2022/23
2023/24
2024/25

Please provide your response in a table in an excel spreadsheet format.

I look forward to receiving your response within the statutory 20 working day timeframe.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

GMP would be unable to respond to questions 3, 5, 6 and 7 without carrying out a substantial trawl of our finance systems and cross referencing with multiple systems/units for accuracy. There is no single or centrally held system to extract this data and no specific finance code to allow for a search to provide the relevant data. At the same time, finance data will only be kept for up to 7 years, so its possible data before 2018 may not be available. Under the circumstances I am confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek if held would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in doing so would exceed the fees limits.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 time frame and where possible a reduction in the volume of information being requested.

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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.

Question 1 is exempt under **section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**.

The response to this question which would cover all your timeframes is available online. Please follow the link below.

[foi-25.014086.g-monies-paid-to-informants-dec-2023---dec-2024.pdf](#)