

**Date:** 29/08/2025  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/25/015315/I

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015315/I**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following information broken down by the school academic years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.***

***1 - The number of pupils aged 18 and under recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on a school premises (primary and secondary schools only) during the academic years outlined above.***

***2 – Please provide a breakdown of the number of offences which took place in a primary school setting and the number of offences which took place in a secondary school setting***

***2- A list of the type of weapons involved - i.e – knife, machete, knuckle duster, firearm, hammer etc***

***3 – A breakdown of the ages of pupils involved provided in the following two age categories:***

***Age 4-11***

***Age 12-18***

***4 – The age of the youngest pupil recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on school premises (primary and secondary schools only) for the academic years outlined above (this does not need to be broken down by academic year) and the type of weapon involved.***

**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.

GMP would be unable to respond to question 2 without carrying out a manual review of over 280 records to understand if any offence took place in a primary or secondary setting. This information is not recorded in any searchable manner and so this would be the only way to ensure the information is accurate for reporting. Using keywords would also not help as this would potentially reveal results that are not relevant to this FOI. It is estimated that this request would take in the region of 25hrs to complete.

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. 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](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk).