

Date: 19/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015383/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015383/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) provision within your force. Where possible, please provide total counts disaggregated by gender where this information is recorded. I generally expect yes/no responses, but any additional context would be gratefully appreciated.

1. Staffing and Deployment

- a. The number of officers/staff currently trained in DVI within your force (please indicate gender if recorded).*
- b. The number of DVI-trained officers/staff deployed in the last five years, and the categories of incidents they were deployed to (please group as: terrorism, transport incidents, industrial accidents, and natural disasters) - total numbers only, to preserve anonymity.*
- c. Which department or unit within the force is responsible for DVI planning and deployment.*
- d. The typical length of service an officer/staff member remains active on the DVI roster once trained (e.g., average number of years, or whether there is a set term).*
- e. Whether your force applies any suitability checks or criteria prior to deployment of DVI-trained officers (e.g., health, psychological readiness, or operational availability).*

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 are unable to respond to all of this request within the requested timeframe due to questions 1b and 1d requiring a manual review. Any data held for these questions is not held in a central location for easy extraction. A review for 1b would mean going through all emails, records & spreadsheets from the last 5 years' worth of incidents to understand who was deployed, if they were DVI trained at the time & if they were, whether they were deployed in an 'official' DVI role or just happened to be DVI trained and involved in the deployment. Some officers may be deployed and then a few days later will return to their standard policing day job. This could create multiple instances that are not recorded in a way that can easily supplied. Regards 1d, a review is needed and would consist of trawling through multiple years of records and spreadsheets to be able to identify how many officers meet the criteria being requested and to extract the relevant information/breakdowns required. For these reasons, this request would far exceed the 18hrs permitted to respond.

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.

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

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/or a reduction in the volume of information requested above. 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.