

Date: 04/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015401/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015401/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The number of soil samples that your force analysed and sent for analysis dating back to 2015, the last 10 years The number of sediment/rock samples that your force analysed and sent for analysis dating back to 2015, the last 10 years What analyses/techniques were used on the sediment, soil and rock samples dating back to 2015, the last 10 years The cost of all above analyses to the force

We hope to collect these data through FOI so that we can align our company objectives alongside the economic and practical demands of our forces.

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.

While GMP does expect these figures to be low, it would require a manual review to help us to locate and retrieve the requested information in relation to the number of samples. The data is not held in a central location, and our system does not allow for any field search to be filtered for this type of request. For the requested timeframe, thousands of records would have to be trawled through and as such this request cannot be processed in less than 18hrs.

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 reduction in the timeframe required due to the thousands of results to review. 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.

Information Compliance & Records Management Unit, Information Management Branch, Greater Manchester Police Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2NS