

Date: 22nd September 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015459/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015459/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of group-based child sexual exploitation offences recorded by the force for each of the past three calendar years (Or if this data has not been recorded, the number of child sexual abuse offences, flagged as child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three calendar years)**
- 2. The total number of alleged victims involved in these offences for each of the past three calendar years.**
- 3. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation investigations (or CSA investigations flagged as CSE) for each of the past three calendar years.**

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemption applies to question 3.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) 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 3 has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement

Sections 31 is a prejudice-based and qualified exemption. There is a requirement to articulate the harm in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Harm

To provide the number of requests made to a specific social media platform would reveal policing tactics used by GMP. This would give an advantage to individuals intent on committing offences and avoid detection. It would also increase the risk of danger towards the public GMP who sworn to protect.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the number of requests made to Snapchat would provide the public with a slightly more in-depth knowledge into how GMP operates. This could lead to further information being provided to the force.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to release the requested information into the public domain would reveal policing tactics used by GMP.

The risk of danger to the public would be increased by revealing such policing tactics into the public domain. The safety of the public we protect is of paramount importance to GMP and we would not wish to jeopardise that safety by releasing exempt information into the public domain.

Balancing Test

The arguments for and against disclosure of information need to be weighed against each other. In this case the greatest argument for disclosure is the fact that the populous would be provided with information regarding how the force police operate.

However, given that the disclosure would reveal policing tactics and the information GMP consider regarding travel, as well as putting the public in danger, the balance of disclosure at this time weighs on non-disclosure for the risk assessment requested.

This letter acts as a refusal notice for question 3 of this request.

Response to remaining questions

Question 1

Year	Volume of Investigations
2022	9
2023	11
2024	10

- 'Volume of Investigations' is the volume of group-based investigations as defined using the COCAD definition.
- The year is the year that the investigation started, rather than when the abuse occurred.

Question 2

Year	Volume of Named Victims
2022	29
2023	15
2024	25