

Date: 19/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015479/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015479/B

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request access to the following information from Greater Manchester Police concerning grooming offences recorded between 1 August and 31 August 2025:

- 1. The total number of grooming-related investigations initiated in this period.***
- 2. The number of these cases in which the suspects or convicted individuals had known affiliations with radical or jihadist groups.***
- 3. Any anonymised internal memos or summaries (if available) noting trends or safeguarding concerns related to grooming and radicalisation.***
- 4. The number of cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service and their current status, if known.***

This request is made in support of independent academic research examining the relationship between radicalisation and grooming crimes in urban areas. The Manchester region has been pivotal to recent discourse surrounding institutional safeguarding failures, and this data will contribute to an evidence-based analysis of law enforcement and community protection mechanisms.

If any element of this request cannot be fulfilled, I kindly request that partial disclosure be made where possible, and that any exemptions applied are clearly explained as required by Section 17 of the Act.

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

In relation to question 2 and 3 of this request, GMP would be unable to respond without carrying out a manual review, as there is no centrally held system that can provide this data. Question 2 would need to review all the available crimes that have been recorded for part 1 of this FOI. For the elected timeframe we have detected 110 crimes, and each would need to be trawled through extensively, to understand if we hold the data to match this question. It is anticipated that it would take in the region of 55hrs to locate and retrieve this information if held, requiring around 25-30 minutes per each review.

Question 3 would consist of contacting all divisions, to review any internal memos provided to all staff to know if any of these matches what has been asked for, at the same time asking all officers to review their pocket notebooks to see if any trends have been recorded from any information gathered from the general public. This again cannot be achieved in under 18hrs.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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.

Question 1.

Caveat – Data provided is the number of recorded CSE markers located during the time frame requested.

- ***In August 2025, there have been 110 crimes recorded that have the CSE flag attached.***