



Date: 13/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016396/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016396/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. Cannabis cultivation sites attended -

For each calendar year from 2015 to the most recent complete year available, please provide the number of sites your force has dealt with that were confirmed or suspected to be used for cannabis cultivation.

For the purposes of this request, a "site" refers to any address or location attended by police officers in the course of their duties where cannabis cultivation was suspected or confirmed, regardless of whether this resulted in arrest, charge, or prosecution.

If providing data for the full period from 2015 would exceed the cost limit under Section 12 of the Act, please instead provide the figures for the most recent five calendar years.

Numeric totals only are requested; no personal or case-specific information is required.

2. Policies, procedures, or guidance -

Please confirm whether your force holds any written policies, procedures, standard operating procedures, or operational guidance relating to how officers should deal with sites that are used, or suspected to be used, for cannabis cultivation.

If so, I would be grateful if you could:

- Provide a web link to the relevant material, or*
- Attach copies of the documents to your response, or*
- Confirm if the material is exempt from disclosure and specify the relevant exemption(s).*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. There is no incident closing code that would easily allow us to identify which incidents relate to cannabis cultivation sites. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all incidents where the word “cannabis” appears to see if the incident related to a cultivation site.

A search of our incident records shows that there are 59,345. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 4,945 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. 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 and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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