

Date: 30/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016495/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016495/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding incidents and police activity in Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester city centre.

Please provide the following information covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025:

1. *The total number of calls for service received by Greater Manchester Police relating to incidents in Piccadilly Gardens.*
2. *Of these calls, how many were classified as urgent or emergency (Grade 1 / immediate response).*
3. *A breakdown of the types of crimes or incidents officers attended (for example: theft, robbery, assault, drug offences, public order offences, etc.).*
4. *The total number of arrests made in Piccadilly Gardens during this period.*
5. *Of those arrested, how many were British nationals and how many were non-British nationals.*
6. *If recorded, a breakdown of the nationalities of non-British nationals arrested (please provide figures rather than personal data).*
7. *The number of repeat offenders arrested more than once in Piccadilly Gardens during this period.*
8. *The number of stop and searches conducted in Piccadilly Gardens during this period.*
9. *The number of knife-related incidents recorded in Piccadilly Gardens.*

10. *The number of drug-related offences recorded in Piccadilly Gardens.*

I understand that personal data cannot be disclosed. I am requesting statistical information only.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit under the Act, please advise and assist me in refining the request.

I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

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.

GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested relating to calls and arrests would involve a manual search of all arrests within the City of Manchester district and would require the recording of every 999 and 101 call to be listened to in order to establish whether they are relevant to your request. The precise location of an arrest is not a searchable field on our arrest recording system. The only way to establish whether an arrest occurred at Piccadilly Gardens would be to manually review each arrest record. Likewise, there is no centrally held database of calls received. The only way to determine how many calls related to Piccadilly Gardens would be to listen to the call recording. Not every call will result in an incident being created and some incidents will receive more than one call.

A search of arrest records shows that there are over 15,000 arrests that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 125 hours to ascertain the data required. Additionally, in 2025 alone GMP received 1,288,218 calls from the public. To collate and then listen to all of these would be a further massive amount of work, further exceeding the statutory limit of 18 hours.

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

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