

Date: 24th March 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016615/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
I am seeking updated figures relating to registered sex offenders, following data previously obtained by BBC news via FOI requests that were reported on in March 2023
(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64624921>).*

I would like to request the most recent available data between 2021 to present on:

- 1. The number of registered sex offenders recorded as:*
 - *Missing, or*
 - *Wanted for arrest*
- 2. The number of registered sex offenders who have:*
 - *Notified police of a name change or alias*
- 3. The number of offences relating to:*
 - *Breaches of notification requirements*

If possible, please provide:

- *Annual figures broken down by year*
- *Data in the same format/categories as previously supplied in response to FOI requests used in the BBC report*

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.

In relation to question 2, there is no searchable field to extract the number of Sex Offenders who have alias names or who have completed a name change. To collate this information would require a manual review of each individual Sex Offender record.

For question 3, we do not record the amount of Sex Offender breaches as a total and this is not in a searchable format. To collate this information will require a manual review of all Sex Offender records to determine if they have a breach.

From an initial search there is approximately 5,700 registered Sex Offenders in GMP's jurisdiction. It is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to collate the information required for question 2 and 3.

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.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced. For example removal of questions 2 and 3. 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

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 fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1

GMP currently has 74 Sex Offenders who are shown as wanted.