

Date: 16/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016482/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016482/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information pursuant to section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information sought comprises aggregate statistical data concerning the force's administrative performance in handling information rights requests. It does not engage the personal data of any identifiable individual, nor does it concern any specific criminal investigation, intelligence matter, or ongoing law enforcement activity. No exemption under section 23, 24, 30, or 31 of the Act is capable of being engaged by a request for aggregate compliance statistics of this nature.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information.

Where exact figures are not held, reasonable estimates are acceptable.

1. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

For each financial year from 2015/16 to 2024/25 inclusive, please provide:

(a) The total number of requests received by Greater Manchester Police under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

(b) The number of requests responded to within the statutory deadline prescribed by section 10(1) of the Act.

(c) The number of requests where the time for compliance was extended under section 10(3) of the Act, and the average length of such extensions in working days.

(d) The number of requests where the response was provided outside the applicable statutory deadline, including any extended deadline under section 10(3).

(e) The mean and median number of working days taken to respond to all requests.

(f) The number of requests that remained open and unanswered as at 31 March of the relevant financial year.

(g) The number of requests in respect of which no substantive response had been provided as at 31 March of the relevant financial year.

(h) The number of requests refused in full, broken down by the exemption relied upon under Part II of the Act.

2. SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018 / UK GDPR

For the period from 25 May 2018 to 31 March 2025, broken down by financial year (with the first period covering 25 May 2018 to 31 March 2019), please provide:

(a) The total number of subject access requests received under Article 15 of the UK GDPR.

(b) The number of subject access requests responded to within the one calendar month deadline prescribed by Article 12(3) of the UK GDPR.

(c) The number of subject access requests where the deadline was extended by up to two further months under Article 12(3), and the categories of reason recorded for those extensions.

(d) The number of subject access requests where the response was provided outside the applicable statutory deadline, including any lawful extension.

(e) The mean and median number of calendar days taken to respond to all subject access requests.

(f) The number of subject access requests that remained open and unanswered as at 31 March of the relevant financial year.

(g) The number of subject access requests refused in full or in part under Article 15(4) of the UK GDPR or under any applicable exemption in Schedules 2 or 3 to the Data Protection Act 2018, broken down by the exemption relied upon.

3. REQUESTS UNDER PART 3 OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018 (LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCESSING)

For the period from 25 May 2018 to 31 March 2025, broken down by financial year (with the first period covering 25 May 2018 to 31 March 2019), please provide:

(a) The total number of requests for access to personal data received under section 45 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (the law enforcement processing equivalent of a subject access request).

(b) The number of such requests responded to within the one calendar month deadline prescribed by section 54 of the Act.

(c) The number of such requests where the response was provided outside the statutory deadline.

(d) The mean and median number of calendar days taken to respond to all such requests.

(e) The number of such requests that remained open and unanswered as at 31 March of the relevant financial year.

4. INTERNAL REVIEWS OF FOIA RESPONSES

For each financial year from 2015/16 to 2024/25 inclusive, please provide:

(a) The number of internal reviews requested in respect of responses to FOIA requests.

(b) The outcomes of those internal reviews, broken down by category (original decision upheld, partially upheld, overturned).

(c) The mean and median number of working days taken to complete internal reviews.

5. REGULATORY AND INSPECTORATE OVERSIGHT

Please confirm whether, at any point during the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2025:

(a) The Information Commissioner's Office has issued any practice recommendations, reprimands, enforcement notices, or assessment notices to Greater Manchester Police in respect of its handling of FOIA requests or subject access requests.

(b) His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has made any findings, recommendations, or raised any concerns specifically relating to Greater Manchester Police's handling of FOIA requests, subject access requests, or information rights compliance.

(c) Greater Manchester Police has been subject to any monitoring programme, formal action plan, or undertaking agreed with or imposed by the ICO in respect of its information rights compliance.

If any such regulatory or inspectorate action has occurred, please provide the dates and a summary of the nature of the action.

6. STATISTICAL REPORTING

For each financial year from 2015/16 to 2024/25 inclusive, please provide:

(a) Confirmation of whether Greater Manchester Police submitted its FOIA statistical returns to the Home Office for inclusion in the Government's published statistics for each reporting period.

(b) Any instances in which Greater Manchester Police failed to submit its statistical return by the required deadline.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to this request in full without carrying out a substantial review manually of thousands of records to supply parts of this data. Responding to questions 1 and 2 c, e and g would result in thousands of records having to be trawled through due to how this is information stored on our systems. Some of this data will also be held of previously used systems and so access to this would be required to interrogate and locate parts of what you have requested. In addition, due to the changes in systems GMP only has full access to information from 2019 onwards. From October 2019-March 2025 GMP received almost 10,000 FOI requests. To understand how many of these resulted in an extension would far exceed the limitations laid out in the FOIA of 18hrs or less.

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.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the some or all of the following.

- A reduced time frame
- A reduction in the volume of information being requested.
- The removal of questions 1 c/e/g and question 2 c/e/g.

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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 fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Figures provided from October 2019 - March 2025 inclusive, based on what can extracted from current systems.

1. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

- a) 9640
- b) 5221

For the period from 25 May 2018 to 31 March 2025, broken down by financial year.

2. SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018 / UK GDPR

- a) 16550
- b) 8453
- d) 4354