

Date: 28/07/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017157/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017157/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

REQUEST 1:

Numbers of strip searches conducted in GMP detention from 2020 to 2026

REQUEST 2:

Gendered breakdown of strip searches conducted by GMP from 2020 to 2026

REQUEST 3:

How many cases involving a GMP-conducted strip search were NFA

REQUEST 4:

Provide a copy of GMP policy in relation to the location of strip searching of children under stop and search, and any recent changes that have been made

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 the information requested is held by GMP.

1. 14,736
2. Male – 12,529
Female – 2,181
Unknown/Not stated – 26
3. 4,595 cases were recorded as NFA.
4. Please see relevant extract taken from GMP's **Force Stop and Search policy 2026** below that matches this question.

5.1.3 Children & Young People

Stop and search impacts people searched in many ways, especially children and young people. A professional and courteous encounter, regardless of whether anything is found, shows policing in a positive light. However, a negative stop and search encounter, especially at a young age, can have a lasting and significant effect on a child or young person.

Officers should take a trauma-focused approach to their work in line with GMP's commitment to Child-Centred Policing. Officers should show awareness of this, practicing patience, tolerance, and understanding of questions and behaviours.

In all encounters with children and young people under 18 years, it is important for officers to remember that a child should be treated as a child primarily, even if they are known to police or appear older. Officers should also avoid making assumptions about young people based on age alone or experiences, including 'adultification.' If a child or young person is putting themselves in a situation where they may be at risk of harm, then that should be the officers' priority.

Consideration should be given to the safety and welfare of any child stopped, in accordance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, which requires chief police officers to ensure that in the discharge of their functions they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of all persons under the age of 18.

Force safeguarding policies should be followed, and if any risks or concerns are identified, officers should seek immediate guidance from a supervisor and consider making a safeguarding referral.

For all children subject to a stop and search, subject to use of force, arrested or reported missing a mandatory CAP referral must be completed and submitted for the child. This applies to every child, every time, with no exceptions. This includes situations where a young person is stopped multiple times and nothing is found, so no criminal justice route is being taken.

Supervisory checks must ensure CAPs are completed accurately, promptly, and consistently, using agreed Force templates. This is a critical safeguarding control to maximise safeguarding opportunities.

In an emergency, where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child would otherwise be likely to suffer significant harm, consideration should be given to using police protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989.

The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice for stop and search indicates that relevant factors or enquiries that may identify cause for concern include:

- *The time of the stop – for example, if they are out during school hours or it is extremely late at night;*
- *Whether there is someone with them who may be exerting pressure to commit crime or otherwise exploit them;*
- *Signs of vulnerability, such as physical signs of neglect, difficulty in communicating, bravado or insolence used to disguise undue alarm or actual fear;*
- *If the child is looked after or missing from home.*

During every interaction relating to the stop and search of a child under the age of 18 years, officers should actively consider contacting the individual's parent, guardian, or carer from the scene of the encounter. Consideration should also be given, depending on the circumstances, to returning the young person home. For those under age of 10 this must be done at the time of the stop and search, and arrangements made to reunite them. Details of parent or carer contact should be added to the action log of the stop search record and the CAP.

Children aged under 10 should only be detained for the purpose of a search in exceptional circumstances. Where it is necessary to do so, regardless of the extent of the search, every effort should be made for the search to be conducted in a child-friendly location in the presence of an appropriate adult. This could mean taking the child to their home to be searched in the presence of their parent or guardian. Where this is not operationally possible, the search should, at a minimum, take place in a safe and controlled area, with a police station being preferable to the street or a police vehicle.

Although children under 10 are below the age of criminal responsibility, their presence in circumstances where it is necessary to search them in itself gives serious cause for concern. In its 2014 inquiry report, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children recommended that a copy of the stop and search report relating to any child under 10 be forwarded to the force's child protection team for onward referral to children's services where appropriate.

5.1.6 Extent of Search – More than J.O.G.?

The physical extent of a search should be limited to what is necessary and proportionate to achieve the legitimate aim of the stop and search encounter. The extent and thoroughness of the search must not be excessive. If the search power being used requires the officer to have reasonable grounds, the extent of the search must depend on the nature of those grounds and the object of the search. If the officer is using a 'no suspicion' search power (e.g., S60), there is no specific restriction on the nature of the search, but it must be reasonable, bearing in mind the items being looked for.

For example, if the search is based on information that an individual has hidden a stolen item in their pocket, the search should be limited to that pocket. That is unless there is additional information, or the person has had time or opportunity to move the item from the pocket since last being observed by the informant. The officer may then need to search more extensively where the item is small and may be concealed.

The College of Police Authorised Professional Practice sets out three levels of intrusiveness:

- *Jacket, outer coat and gloves (JOG);*
- *More Thorough Search (MTS) – a search involving the removal of more than JOG, but not revealing intimate body parts;*
- *Search involving the Exposure of Intimate Body Parts (EIBP) - search involving more than JOG that exposes intimate parts of the body (genitals, buttocks, female breasts).*

JOG searches

There is no power for an officer to require a person being searched to remove any clothing in public apart from JOG (jacket, outer coat, and gloves), although the officer may ask the person to do so voluntarily. If the officer does ask the person to voluntarily remove more than JOG in public, they should make it clear that the person is not obliged to comply.

If it is reasonably necessary in the circumstances (bearing in mind the object being looked for), under Code A, the officer may, as part of a JOG search:

- *Place their hand in the inside pocket of outer clothing*
- *Feel around the inside of collars, socks, and shoes*
- *Search hair if there are no restrictions on the removal of headgear, e.g., for religious reasons*

More thorough search (MTS)

A search involving the removal of more than JOG (jacket, outer coat, and gloves) but not revealing intimate parts of the body, escalates the search to a more thorough search, MTS. (More Thorough Search), which makes the search subject to additional restrictions.

An MTS must be conducted out of public view, which could include a police van or a police station. An empty street is still considered a public place and in public view.

Unless only headgear or footwear is removed, the MTS should be conducted by an officer of the same sex and not in the presence of a different sex unless specifically requested by the person.

Exposing intimate parts of the body (EIP)

A stop and search involving the removal of more than JOG (jacket, outer coat, and gloves) that exposes intimate parts of the body (genitals, buttocks, female breasts) is often referred to as a 'strip search' (but should not be confused with an intimate search conducted on arrested persons within the custody environment).

Officers identifying a need for an EIP (Exposure of Intimate Parts) search must consult a supervisor prior to carrying out the search to explore why it is necessary and proportionate in the circumstances.

This supervisor should be at least of the rank of Inspector. The officer who identifies the need for an EIP search (not the supervisor) is responsible for the decision to proceed, having taken into account the advice given by the supervisor, unless the supervisor consulted gives a lawful order not to proceed. This supervisory guidance beforehand, rather than after the search, ensures appropriate use of the most intrusive levels of stop and search.

If BWV (Body-Worn Video) is available, officers should record in accordance with GMP policy but cover the camera or direct it away from the person during an EIP search, leaving audio recording activated.

While all searches should be carried out with dignity and respect, special consideration should be given to females detained for EIP searches, particularly around the issue of menstruation.

EIP searches may only be carried out at a nearby police station or other nearby location which is out of public view (but not a police vehicle). There are sensitivities and concerns around searching children within the school environment, and these must be discussed with the Inspector and senior teaching staff prior to searches taking place.

Except in cases of genuine urgency, where there is a real risk of serious harm, an appropriate adult must be present for a juvenile (under 18 years) or vulnerable person. An exception to this in the case of a child is if the child and adult both agree that the adult should not be present during the search.

At least two officers of the same biological sex should be present, and no more than two unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The search must be conducted where the person cannot be seen by:

- Anyone who does not need to be present;*
- Any member of a different sex apart from an appropriate adult specifically requested by the person being searched.*

Upper and lower clothing should be removed by the subject separately; subjects should not normally be required to remove all their clothes at the same time. There should be no physical contact; if something is seen or found, the subject should be asked to hand it over. If it is necessary to achieve the objective of the search, the subject can be asked to put their hands in the air or stand with their legs apart and bend forward, but not to squat.