



Date: 06/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017225/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017225/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This request forms part of research into how police forces electronically record information relating to victims with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions in investigations of offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. It has been carefully drafted to seek only recorded information already held electronically and capable of being retrieved through existing searches, reports or queries of your force's crime recording or case management systems.

The purpose of this request is to obtain recorded management information already capable of being retrieved electronically. It is not intended to require manual examination of individual crime records or the creation of new information.

This request does not require:

- manual examination of individual case files;
- creation of new information; or
- the exercise of judgement about individual cases.

Where an existing electronic report or query is available, I would be grateful if that could be supplied rather than creating a new dataset.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am content for the force to rely upon any existing report, dashboard, business intelligence query or other electronic management information already produced for operational or performance purposes. I am not requesting the creation of any bespoke report or statistical analysis.

Question 1 – Recording of Victim Characteristics

Please confirm whether, for offences recorded under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 during 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, your force records the victim as having any of the following as searchable electronic fields, vulnerability markers, disability markers, electronic flags or other searchable identifiers: learning disability; autism; mental health condition; or another vulnerability marker indicating cognitive impairment or mental impairment. For each category, please indicate whether it is recorded as a searchable electronic field, vulnerability marker, disability marker, electronic flag, other searchable identifier (please specify), or is not recorded in a searchable electronic format.

Question 2 – Recorded Sexual Offences

Where an existing electronic search, report or query can identify offences falling within Question 1 without the manual examination of individual case records, please provide annual figures (2021–2025) broken down, where available, by Home Office offence code and offence description. If your force already produces management information or performance reports containing these data, those reports may be supplied in satisfaction of this part of the request.

Question 3 – Final Recorded Outcomes

Where held electronically, please provide the final recorded Home Office Outcome Code (or local equivalent where Home Office Outcome Codes are not used) for the offences identified in Question 2.

Question 4 – Victim Support Measures

Where held electronically, please provide the number of cases identified in Question 2 in which an Appropriate Adult, Registered Intermediary or any other communication support measure was recorded as a searchable electronic field, marker, flag or other searchable identifier.

Question 5 – Policies, Guidance and Training Please provide copies of any current policy, current operational guidance, training or other guidance documents relating to recording learning disabilities, autism or mental health conditions for victims of sexual offences; investigating such offences; reasonable adjustments; communication support; safeguarding; and specialist victim support.

Question 6 – Internal Reviews Please state whether your force undertook any internal audit, quality assurance exercise, internal review or inspection (whether undertaken internally or commissioned externally) between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2025 relating to the recording of these characteristics or the investigation of such offences. Where held electronically and not exempt, please provide copies.

Question 7 – Recording System Policies, Reviews and Plans Please provide copies of any recorded policy, audit, review, strategy, programme documentation, project documentation, business case or implementation plan held between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2025 relating to improving the recording or electronic searchability of learning disability, autism or mental health conditions within crime recording or case management systems, where held and not exempt.

Clarification: This request has been intentionally drafted to minimise the cost of compliance. If answering every part of this request would exceed the appropriate limit under section 12 of the

Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would ask that you provide any parts that can be answered within the limit rather than refusing the request in its entirety.

In accordance with your duty under section 16, please indicate:

- which parts of the request could be answered within the cost limit;*
- what modifications would enable the remainder to be answered; and*
- whether an alternative electronic search, report or query would substantially address the purpose of this request.*

If different parts of this request are held by different business areas, I would be grateful if they could be processed separately wherever possible.

If any requested information is already publicly available, please provide the relevant URL in accordance with section 21 of the Act.

If the requested information is held in Microsoft Excel, CSV or another commonly used electronic format, I would be grateful to receive it in that format where reasonably practicable.

This request has been refined following previous Freedom of Information responses received from police forces and is intended to minimise the burden on forces by limiting the request to existing electronically searchable information.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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. GMP do not have a flag on our crime recoding system to identify victims of crime with autism or learning difficulties. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes recorded for offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to establish if the victim met the criteria of your request.

Even using a keyword search to narrow down the number of records, a search of our crime records shows that there are 257 records 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 21 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. 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.