



Date: 14/08/2026  
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017284/V

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017284/V**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*For the period 1 January 2018 to 1 June 2026:*

1. *The total number of arrests recorded by your force in connection with football matches or football-related events.*
2. *Of these, how many involved individuals were aged under 18 at the time of arrest.*

*Where available, please provide an annual (calendar year) breakdown of the under-18 arrests.*

*If the type of offence is included in your data (e.g. public order, violence, possession of pyrotechnics), please also include this information.*

*For the purposes of this request, 'football-related' refers to arrests recorded by the force as connected to a football match, football event, football policing operation, football banning order matter, or otherwise classified as football-related within police records.*

**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. To provide the information about the type of offence would involve a manual search of all arrest records, as this is not a searchable field on our recording system.

A search of our arrest records shows that there are 1,387 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 116 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](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk).