

Wednesday, 29 July 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017304/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017304/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/07/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following data for the last 5 years (2021–2026):

I am researching the possibilities of a proposal to Government to increase national police funding for a pilot scheme as proof of concept to add additional protections to public spaces where attacks are highest.

- 1. The total number of reported assaults (sexual, physical, verbal, harassment) in public bathrooms/toilets within your jurisdiction.*
- 2. A breakdown by location type (e.g., train stations, shopping centres, nightclubs, parks, universities).*
- 3. A breakdown by time of day (e.g., 6 AM–6 PM, 6 PM–6 AM) and day of week (week-day/weekend).*
- 4. The number of incidents involving victims in public bathrooms, broken down by age and sex if available.*
- 5. Any records of hate crimes in public bathrooms.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

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

There is no filter on the system for 'public bathrooms/toilets' for us to search the data promptly. To ascertain if any incidents or crimes occurred in the public bathrooms/toilets would involve a manual search on all relevant records. We tried a keyword search using 'bathroom' or 'toilet' in the specified date range, a return of 6,050 records would still need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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.

In accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit. Due to the limitation on the filter on locations, we do not have alternative ways to gather the requested information rather than manual reviews.