

Date: 29/07/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017325/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017325/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am seeking information relating to recorded crimes involving the use of a kirpan (the Sikh ceremonial sword).

For each calendar year from 1 January 2021 to 27 July 2026 (or the most recent data available), please provide:

- 1. The number of recorded crimes in which a "kirpan", "Sikh ceremonial sword", or "Sikh dagger" is recorded as having been used, possessed, or otherwise associated with the offence.***
- 2. A breakdown of those offences by offence type or Home Office offence category for each year.***
- 3. A redacted copy of the crime report, incident summary, MO (modus operandi) text, occurrence log, or other free-text narrative relating to each offence, with all personal data and information identifying individuals removed as necessary.***

If your force records this information through keyword searches rather than structured fields, I would be grateful if you could search for the terms "kirpan", "Sikh dagger" and "Sikh ceremonial sword" within relevant crime recording systems.

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.

However, I am not obliged to supply all the information as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 3 is exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** –Some information you have requested constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual/s, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/01/2021 and 27/07/2026 where the crime description or crime MO description contains 'kirpan', 'sikh ceremonial sword', 'sikh dagger', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB. Please note:
 - The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
 - The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

Question 1.

Year	Total
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
2025	0
2026	2

Question 2.

For the 2 instances in 2026 – Both are recorded under Home Office offence 008/26 'having an article with a blade or point in a public place'.