

Date: 18/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017410/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017410/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Definition: For the purposes of this request, a "forced entry to an incorrect premises" means any occasion on which officers used forced entry (whether under a warrant or other legal power) to enter a property, and it was subsequently established that either: (a) the property entered was not the intended target address of the investigation ("wrong address"); or (b) the property entered was the intended target address, but the occupant(s) present had no connection to the investigation ("wrong occupant").

Please provide:

- 1. The number of forced entries meeting the above definition, broken down by year, for each of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.***
- 2. If practically possible in the time frame of an FOI, please break this down by category (a) and (b) above separately, rather than as a combined total.***

If this information is not held, or cannot be extracted in this form within the appropriate cost limit, please treat this instead as a request for the following, again on a yearly basis:

- 3. The number of compensation claims or payments made by Greater Manchester Police arising from forced entry to a property that was either the wrong address or the wrong occupant, as defined above.***

I note you have already received a similar request which was partially refused due to its complexity. This one is a little simpler, but if any part of this request would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Act, please advise how the request could be narrowed (for example, by date range or by category)

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

Due to how information recorded under question 3 is stored, GMP would be unable to comply with this FOI without a manual review for this part of the request. The information is not held in any centrally stored location for easy extraction and so a manual interrogation of over 1,700 files would need to take place to understand what GMP hold. At a conservative rate of 10 minutes to review these files, it would take this FOI in excess of 280hrs to respond.

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.

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.

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. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the removal of question 3 and/or a reduction in the requested timeframe.

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.