

Date: 16/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/016014/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/016014/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Thank you for your response dated 16 December 2025 (Ref: 01/FOI/25/015912/X).

I note your refusal under Section 12 (Cost of Compliance) and the explanation that identifying "dual arrests" and "counter-allegations" would require a manual review of over 50,000 records per year.

To bring this request within the statutory cost limit, I am submitting a Refined Request. I have significantly reduced the scope by focusing on a single fiscal year and removing all requirements for manual record-by-record searching.

Please provide the following information for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 only:

Section A: Policy & Training (Electronic Retrieval)

This section seeks the retrieval of existing electronic documents and guidance:

- 1. Primary Perpetrator Guidance: A copy of the specific operational guidance, "decision-making matrix," or flowchart provided to frontline officers to assist them in identifying the "Primary Perpetrator" or "Dominant Aggressor" at a domestic abuse scene (distinct from the general DA policy).*
- 2. Training Materials: The specific Lesson Plan or Training Slide Deck used to train officers on the handling of "Counter-Allegations" and the risks of dual arrests.*
- 3. 999 Call Evidence: The specific Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or guidance that instructs officers on the seizure and use of 999 call recordings as evidence in cases where counter-allegations are made.*

Section B: High-Level Statistics (Aggregate Data)

I am now requesting only high-level aggregate figures that should be readily available from central reporting systems:

4. The total number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded by GMP in the fiscal year 2023-2024.

5. The total number of arrests made in connection with Domestic Abuse incidents in the fiscal year 2023-2024.

6. The total number of "Charging Referrals" (files sent to the CPS for a charging decision) flagged with a domestic abuse identifier for the same period.

Section C: Confirmation of Data Reporting

7. In light of your Section 12 refusal, please formally confirm whether GMP currently has any centrally reportable data field or "flag" that allows the Force to aggregate the number of incidents where both parties were arrested (Dual Arrests) without a manual review of individual logs.

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 parts 5 and 6 of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

Following a review of the searches carried out we have located over 20,000 DA related crimes during your requested time frame. To respond to questions 5 and 6 would require a review manually of each crime to see how many of them related to an arrests "in connection with Domestic Abuse incidents" and then from those results, a further review would be needed to see how many were sent to the CPS. This level of work would far exceed the limitations laid out in the FOIA.

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 questions 5 & 6. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 1 is exempt from disclosure under the following exemption

Section 31(1)(a)(b)(c) Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemption and therefore subject to a harm based public interest test.

Harm

To disclose the requested information within the relevant policy would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the Force. Resulting in safety implications for the general public, consequently creating extra strain on police resources. Furthermore, disclosing such information has the potential to seriously undermine effective law enforcement and policing strategies. Therefore, GMP will not disclose information that would prejudice their ability to prevent or detect criminal activity or to protect the general public.

Factors in favour of disclosure

Disclosure of this specific operational guidance would allow for a better informed public, helping to build public confidence and allow a better understanding of how GMP deals with Domestic Abuse.

This would encourage more individuals to speak to the police, whether this be as a victim or witness to an incident, in order to assist with an investigation or provide intelligence.

Factors against disclosure

To disclose this specific operational guidance would hinder the prevention or detection of crime, the efficient and effective conduct of the force and has the potential to seriously undermine the effective law enforcement tactics in how GMP deals with specific crime types, allowing potential offenders to use the information to their advantage.

The safety of the public is of paramount importance to the force and a major part of the policing purpose, therefore GMP will not disclose information which could risk lives or be detrimental to our policing role of enforcing the law and protecting people.

Balance Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the enhanced public confidence. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which, in this case is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk, as potential offenders may use this information to their advantage in order to adapt the way in which they commit such criminal acts.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision, at this time, to maintain the above exemption and withhold the requested guidance from disclosure.

1. See exemption above – The relevant redact policy can be located here. [foi-25.014060.w-cross-border-crime-policies.pdf](#)
2. No information held in a recorded form.
3. No information held. This is processed on a case by case basis.

4. The total number of Domestic Abuse related crimes recorded in the financial year 2023/ 2024 was 55,785.