



Date: 19/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/016056/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/016056/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to missing person reports recorded by your force over the last five complete calendar years (or financial years, if this is how the data is held):

1. *The total number of individuals reported missing in each year.*
2. *Of those reported missing, how many individuals were:*
 - a) *Located or traced within 24 hours of being reported missing.*
3. *The number of reported missing persons who were recorded as having:*
 - a) *Dementia*
 - b) *Alzheimer's disease**(or other recorded cognitive impairments, if grouped together).*
4. *Any recorded data or estimates held by your force regarding:*
 - a) *The average number of officer and/or staff hours spent per missing person investigation,*
 - b) *Or, if individual averages are not recorded, the total officer/staff hours attributed to missing person investigations per year.*

If available, I would appreciate the data being broken down by year. If the information is not held in the exact format requested, I would be grateful if it could be provided in the format in which it is already recorded.

I understand that personal or identifiable information is exempt, and I am only seeking aggregated statistical data.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost or time limits set out under the Act, please advise how the scope may be refined to remain within statutory limits.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response within the statutory timeframe.

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.

GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in questions 2 and 3 would involve a manual search of all missing person incidents to establish if the missing person had any cognitive impairments or if they were found within 24 hours.

A search of incident records shows that there are 149,908 incidents 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 12,492 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.

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 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