

Date: 11/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016243/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016243/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the latest copies of the following information held by your force as of time of writing:

Definitions:

"Prescribed medical cannabis" means Cannabis-Based Products for Medicinal Use (CBPMs) lawfully prescribed under The Misuse of Drugs (Amendments) (Cannabis and Licence Fees) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2018.

1. Policy Documents

Copies of current policies, procedures, or guidance relating to:

Employment of police staff who use prescribed medical cannabis How drug/alcohol policies apply to lawfully prescribed CBPMs Reasonable adjustments for staff with prescribed medications

2. Current Practice (non-warranted, non-safety-critical roles only)

a) Does your force currently employ police staff permitted to use prescribed medical cannabis? (Yes/No)

b) If yes:

How many staff (aggregate figure only)

Generic role categories (e.g., "administrative", "analyst")

3. Risk Assessments

Copies of any risk assessments, legal opinions, or Equality Act 2010 impact assessments regarding staff use of prescribed medical cannabis.

4. Adjustment Procedures

Any documented procedures for assessing or monitoring reasonable adjustments for staff prescribed medical cannabis.

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to your request for question 3. We do not keep a record of staff using prescribed medical cannabis and therefore would not reasonably be able to find any associated risk assessments without reviewing all 13,000+ GMP employees one by one. This review would be the only way to know what data we hold, if any at all. Under the circumstances I am confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek if held, would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in doing so would exceed the fees limits.

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

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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 at this stage. 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.