

Date: 20/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016240/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016240/F

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, please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025:

- 1. The total number of reports received by your force relating to animal cruelty.***
- 2. The total number of animal cruelty cases investigated by your force.***
- 3. Of those investigations, the number of cases where your force worked jointly with the RSPCA or other animal welfare organisations.***

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.

GMP do not hold any central recording of the number of cases that have been worked on in collaboration with the RSPCA or any other organisation. This information, if held would be stored in each case file, and so to provide a response would require a manual review of each record located for this FOI. Searches have revealed 399 cases, of which to trawl through each of these would take approximately 33hrs. assuming only 5 minutes per each case is needed.

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 or a reduced time frame. However, 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.

Response for questions 1 and 2.

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 31/12/2025, where the HO code and HO offence level are 097/01 (Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal); 097/02 (Carrying out, permitting, causing to be carried out or failing to prevent prohibited procedure on a protected animal); 097/03 (Removing or causing or permitting or failing to prevent removal of dog's tail other than for medical treatment); 097/04 (Administration of poisons etc to a protected animal) or 097/05 (Offences relating to animal fights);, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

HO Code	HO Offence Level	Crime Volume
097/01	Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal	380
097/02	Carrying out, permitting, causing to be carried out or failing to prevent prohibited procedure on a protected animal	8
097/04	Administration of poisons etc to a protected animal	8
097/05	Offences relating to animal fights	3