



Date: 15/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015839/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015839/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

What are the monthly abstraction rates for personnel in each division for the last 12 months.

Because of abstraction, what has been the monthly staffing level percentage for Neighbourhood Policing teams for the past year for each division.

I also note your clarification dated 05/12/2025:

Thank you for the request for clarification, I am learning that not all Police Forces use the same terminology. To clarify, the information that I am requesting is as follows :

The number of Neighbourhood Policing officers, who are reassigned on a temporary basis to either Response or Response Investigation Teams, to cover for sickness, training or statutory level requirements for Response, this applies from the rank of Sergeant to PCSO. This does not include Police Staff.

The information can be supplied in either hours or a percentage, based on how your force collates that information, if this could be supplied for both Divisional Level and Area level , for the last complete 12 month period that you have figures for I would be grateful.

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.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of the records of all officers for each day. There is no central record kept of abstraction data. I have also made enquiries with the Wigan District Command Team, who have advised me that for their district alone, the only possible way to collate this information would be to manually review each officer's record. Given the number of officers based on the Wigan district this would exceed the 18-hour limit on it's own. Attempting to collate the information for the other nine Greater Manchester districts would further exceed this limit.

To comply with the whole of your request the process would therefore take over 18 hours work and exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond. 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Due to the need to manually review each officers' record there is no way this information will be collatable within the 18-hour limit.