



Date: 20/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/016027/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/016027/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *Does your police force record bus violence?*
2. *How many police call outs to buses due to violence have there been in each of the last five years?*
3. *How many arrests due to bus violence have there been in each of the last five years?*
4. *Do you record if the bus driver was the victim of this violence if so, please can I have the figure for violence against bus drivers for each of the last five years?*
5. *Has your police force introduced specific measures in the last five years to reduce bus violence, if so can you explain what those measures are?*

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.

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 recorded under 'violence with injury' or 'violence without injury' with a created date between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2024, where the MO keyword sub-category is 'bus' and MO keyword is 'location', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes

classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

For part 2, we have looked at incidents linked to the crimes. We have counted incidents as attended where the earliest arrival timestamp field is not blank.

Counts and proportions of incidents with no recorded arrival are presented as a data quality measure. The fact that arrival was not recorded does not necessarily mean that an incident was not attended. Equally, it is not possible to assume that all incidents with no recorded arrival were attended.

For part 3, we have looked at arrest records linked to the crimes found.

We are aware of an issue that allows arrest records to be created without being linked to a crime record, where a crime has been created on the system for the same instance. This is incorrect and will affect reporting which relies on arrest and crime records being linked.

The MO keywords are not mandatory and may not be completed.

- There may be relevant records missing from our response where this field has not been completed.
- As these are optional fields, an increase or decrease in crime volume where these fields are part of the filtering may not indicate a true increase or decrease of the volume of these crimes, but may reflect a change in usage of this field.

Due to low numbers being returned for some crimes, some of the totals have been replaced with X, as by providing exact figures as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By replacing this data in this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

1. Yes. Crimes are recorded on our system at any location, including buses.

2.

Incident Created Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Incidents Attended	X	6	13	34	117

3.

First Arrest Date Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Volume of Arrests	0	X	5	6	26

4. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the number of crimes where the victim was a bus driver would involve a manual search of all Violence With injury and all Violence Without Injury crimes where the MO Keyword of Bus present, as the occupation of the victim is not a searchable field on our crime recording system.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 806 crimes 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 67 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

5. GMP created a Transport Unit in 2019 to improve confidence and safety amongst staff and passengers using public transport in the Greater Manchester area. The GMP Transport Unit and Travel for Greater Manchester (TfGM) lead the Travelsafe Partnership. The partnership includes representatives from Metrolink Bus, Go North West, Stagecoach, First and Diamond. The partnership hold weekly meetings where data is reviewed and representations by partners are made to guide where Police and TfGM resources can be best deployed to improve safety and deter crime on bus, tram and at Interchanges.
For further info see below link [Safe and secure travel | Bee Network | Powered by TfGM](#).

Inspector [REDACTED] from the Transport Unit would be happy to discuss any further questions about the Transport Unit if you would like to contact him directly. He can be contacted on [REDACTED]