

Date: 23/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016160/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016160/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *In relation to the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, otherwise known as "Sarah's Law", how many requests has your force received asking if someone who has sufficient access to children has a sex offender's record in the (i) 2023, (ii) 2024 and (iii) 2025 calendar year?*
2. *For each calendar year please state (i) in how many of these requests did the subject have a sex offender's record AND you disclosed the conviction to an interested party and (ii) of these positive returns how many of the individuals were registered sex offenders.*
3. *Of the first ten cases from 1.3.2025 onwards where you disclosed an offender's record please state the main/primary offence that caused concern?*

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 about how many requests related to registered sex offender would involve a manual search of all Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) records.

A search of our records shows that for just 2025 there were 449 CSODS records created. At a very conservative estimate of 10 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 75 hours to ascertain the data required, and that would only be for the last year, not the full 3 years of your request.

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