

Date: 23/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015857/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015857/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This request concerns outstanding arrest warrants issued due to failure to appear in court, breach of bail, pre-trial absconding, or post-conviction absconding.

To minimise cost/time burden and avoid broad searches, all questions request existing, routinely held datasets or policy documents only.

A. please provide the following:

- **Current Outstanding Warrants (as of your latest available month) The total number of individuals with outstanding arrest warrants .A breakdown of these warrants by:**
 - o **Offence category (e.g., murder, rape/sexual assault, child sexual offences, GBH, fraud, domestic abuse, drugs offences)**

B. b. Warrant type (failure to appear / breach of bail / pre-trial / post-conviction)

C. c. Year of issue (e.g., pre-2000, 2000-2009, 2010-2019, 2020-present) The year of the oldest currently outstanding warrant and the offence category associated with it (no personal identifiers required).

B. Trends (Existing, Recorded Data Only) For each of the past five calendar years (2019-2023), please provide:

- **Number of warrants issued**
- **Number of warrants executed (If exact annual figures are not held, please supply the closest equivalent routinely held statistic.)**

C.2 Policies, Risk Assessments & Procedures Does your force have a formal policy or SOP for reviewing, prioritising or executing outstanding warrants?

- **If yes, please provide the document or the relevant excerpt.**

D. What risk assessment criteria are used to determine warrant priority? (e.g., offence severity, threat to life, repeat offending, safeguarding concerns)

E. Does your force maintain a dedicated team/unit for locating individuals with outstanding warrants?

- **If yes, please state its name and staffing level (if recorded).**

F. Use of Databases and Inter-Agency Cooperation are all outstanding warrants routinely entered onto the Police National Computer (PNC)?

G. Does your force use external databases (e.g., NHS, DVLA, credit reference agencies, Passport Office, benefits databases) for warrant tracing where legally permitted?

H. Please summarise any policies or agreements concerning information-sharing with other UK forces, NCA, or Interpol, where relevant.

H.2. Victim Communication and Safeguarding Does your force have a policy for notifying victims when a suspect or convicted offender subject to a warrant remains unlocated?

Clarification provided - I would like as much information as possible focusing only on the most crucial points and main ideas, leaving out minor details, to provide a quick, clear overview.

I. How many individuals with outstanding warrants (current total) are convicted but not yet sentenced? Format and Clarifications I am not requesting names, DOBs or any personal identifiers

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 the information requested is held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply all this information held as an exemption applies. The breakdown requested in part A and part B is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is related to investigations that remain open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete those investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

In addition, "Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

As such, within the spirit of the Act, **all questions except from question H** qualify as a request for information held. GMP do not hold Summaries of such information in a recorded format and therefore would be required to create this information in order to respond.

The rest of the information you have requested is below.

Question A.

1950 as of 24/11/2025 and the exemption above also applies.

Question B.

See exemption above.

Question C.

1991

Trends – please note – Not all warrant will have been issued by GM courts or for GM offences. Some data may contain warrants issued from outside of GMP boundaries by other forces.

- 2019 –**4197**
- 2020 –**3517**
- 2021 –**3942**
- 2022 –**4357**
- 2023 –**5145**

Warrants executed.

- 2020- –**1589**
- 2021 – **2032**
- 2022 – **2661**
- 2023 – **4179**
- 2024 – **5070**

Question C.2

Please see an extract from the relevant procedures.

If the warrant is a category A or B no bail FTA warrant, court assistance staff will pass it to the police for execution. All bail warrants, with the exception of those in respect of persons categorised as PPO, PYO or Fast Track, will be passed to the court enforcement team for allocation.

Question D

Please see the relevant extract.

Categorisation of a warrant is the process that determines the executing agency and the timescales that it should be executed in. Some of the factors to be considered are the risk to the public and the intelligence value. Where an offender has committed a serious offence they should be monitored and managed by the police. When a targeted offender comes to light, the police should control the warrant as there is intelligence that can be gathered by which to manage that case and the offender's behaviour. If the offence or the offender is low level then the warrant should be managed by HMCS

Each agency should undertake generic health and safety risk assessments of operational business to ensure that staff, are properly trained equipped and briefed.

Question E

Each district has a dedicated person/admin who collate the warrants and task out accordingly.

Question F

Yes.

Question G

Yes.

Question H

This question is N/A in its current form.

H.2

No information held.

Question I

GMP do not hold prosecution or conviction data as this is held by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Please apply directly to HMCTS for such data.