

Date: 26/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016206/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016206/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am looking into the prevalence of violence at semi professional and amateur football matches. This would cover matches from step 6 (Conference South/North) down to regional divisions, and amateur leagues.

I would like to request data relating to recorded incidents at football matches hosted within your force area, for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

I would be grateful if you could provide:

- 1. The number of recorded incidents at football grounds/parks/pitches on match days classified as:***
- 2. Assault (including common assault and ABH/GBH)***
- 3. Public order offences***
- 4. Violent disorder***
- 5. Any other violence-related offences***

I'd also like to please be provided with:

- 6. The number of arrests made in connection with semi-pro/amateur football matches in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (with the figures provided separately for each year)***

Where possible, a breakdown of:

7. How many of the incidents involved players (rather than spectators, for example), and how many involved match officials.

8. Where the incidents took place and any details of exactly what happened (but only if this is possible)

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, GMP does not hold some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

In order for GMP to provide a response for any data held under the amateur leagues would require a substantial manual review of all amateur teams across all the boroughs with Greater Manchester. For example, the Power league have a number of venues and play every day so this would mean searching each of these game once we have obtained dates and times which would far exceed the time limits allowed under the FOIA. In addition, we would be required to check with all the schools in our boroughs to see which hire out their school fields/artificial grounds and complete a review of all games played on these. Finally, amateur teams also play on private and council land; which would require GMP to research all amateur teams in the GM Boroughs and then see where they play and then research all the dates of home fixtures to establish what/if any data is held to satisfy this FOI request.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations

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 the amateur element of this request, and a reduction in the volume of required data. For example, to know if an incident involved players/spectators/officials would more than likely trigger a manual review due to how some data is held within our systems and so it may be advisable to remove questions that require detailed breakdowns such as this.

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.