



Date: 25/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016802/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016802/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I have made enquiries regarding crime statistics for Trafford; however, I understand that data has not been available for the past eight years due to IT upgrades. As part of your support, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in relation to Urmston and the wider Greater Manchester area:

1. *General crime trends and statistics for the area*
2. *Any identified concerns relating to youth crime*
3. *Information regarding substance misuse within the community, including alcohol*
4. *Any known concerns relating to exploitation (sexual, criminal, and financial, including county lines activity)*
5. *Any concerns relating to terrorism or factors that may result in a Prevent referral*
6. *Details of support, interventions, or diversionary programmes available for young people who offend, including prevention of reoffending*
7. *How missing young person enquiries are managed by local policing teams*
8. *Any concerns relating to asylum seeker or transfer programmes, particularly where crime may impact individuals based on ethnicity or cultural background*
9. *Any additional risks or concerns identified by GMP that may affect young people locally (for example, waterways, rail or tram networks), particularly those with emotional or mental health vulnerabilities*

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 some of the information you have requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information held as exemptions apply to some parts of your request.

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.

The data provided for question 1 contains crimes with a created date between 01/03/2024 and 31/03/2026 in the 'Urmston' and 'Urmston Town Centre' beats, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting 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.

We are aware of various issues with our crime recording system affecting committed at locations for some crimes (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include crimes that did not happen in that location and/or exclude crimes that did.

- Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
- Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies.

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.

Urmston		
Crime Latest Classification : Crime Tree Level Four	24/25	25/26
All other theft offences	67	56
Bicycle theft	5	6
Business and community burglary	9	5
Criminal damage and arson offences	62	66
Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving	0	X
Miscellaneous crimes against society	17	12
Other sexual offences	14	16
Possession of drugs	15	16
Possession of weapon offences	11	18
Public order offences	97	94
Rape	7	X
Residential burglary	14	19
Robbery of business property	X	0
Robbery of personal property	6	8
Shoplifting	104	44
Stalking and harassment	118	114
Theft from the person	5	X
Trafficking of drugs	8	17

Vehicle offences	26	33
Violence with injury	71	62
Violence without injury	102	132

GMP		
Crime Latest Classification : Crime Tree Level Four	24/25	25/26
All other theft offences	26715	24969
Bicycle theft	2631	2712
Business and community burglary	3859	3380
Criminal damage and arson offences	28660	27627
Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving	95	74
Homicide	29	22
Miscellaneous crimes against society	9986	10409
Other sexual offences	8601	8981
Possession of drugs	9365	13584
Possession of weapon offences	5285	5685
Public order offences	38953	36317
Rape	4564	4884
Residential burglary	11277	9132
Robbery of business property	755	1435
Robbery of personal property	4228	3506
Shoplifting	23645	21108
Stalking and harassment	47213	47082
Theft from the person	5295	3701
Trafficking of drugs	7538	7486
Vehicle offences	18832	17608
Violence with injury	30223	30295
Violence without injury	58105	58974

2. This information is exempt under **Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible By Other Means**. The local priorities for the Urmston Neighbourhood Policing Team are available on the Urmston page on the GMP website: [Urmston | Trafford | Greater Manchester Police | Greater Manchester Police](#).
3. This information is not held by GMP. This information may be available from Trafford Council or the NHS. Please also see the information provided in response to question 1 for drug-related crimes.
4. This information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**. Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

S31(1) - Evidence of Harm

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing any further information relating to intelligence held within Greater Manchester Police would reveal our operational capability, which would be of intelligence value to criminals.

Disclosure of intelligence relating to organised crime, such as child sexual exploitation and the supply of drugs would mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be made aware that GMP know about their criminal activity. It would allow criminals the opportunity to alter their behaviour if disclosed, causing the tactics used by GMP to become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend, or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

There is always a duty of care to the general public, and the Police Service has a clear responsibility to ensure the prevention or detection of crime, and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders is always delivered. There are several tactics available to the Police Service to ensure the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In this case, specialist policing activity is required to undertake fair investigations where it may be necessary to progress a range of reasonable lines of enquiry.

As such, the disclosure of any further information which would hinder the forces law enforcement functions cannot be in the public interest.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S31 - Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money. Disclosure of the requested information would enable the public to assess whether the force has appropriately taken steps to help reduce and detect organised crime in the Urmston area. Release would enhance public debate as to whether the force is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals.

Factors against disclosure for S31 - Disclosure that reveals our operational capabilities would compromise law enforcement tactics. Criminals could use the information to target areas of perceived weakness believing that their activities are less likely to be detected. It may be used by criminals who are intent on pursuing their criminal activity, to identify and exploit the limitations of these resources.

To release information relating to intelligence would have a detrimental effect on our policing capabilities. Therefore, to mitigate any risks, disclosure of this information needs to be protected, to ensure that those with intent to do so cannot manipulate it or undermine its purpose in any way.

Any disclosure of information which would compromise law enforcement tactics and thus lead to more crime being committed by reducing the opportunity for the prevention and detection of crime, would therefore increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balancing Test

Law enforcement is of paramount importance, and the Police service will not disclose information if to do so would undermine its purpose and place the safety of individuals at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money in policing appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this area.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of law enforcement, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

5. GMP can neither confirm nor deny whether it holds this information as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of **Section 24(2) - National Security, Section 30(3) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities, Section 31(3) - Law Enforcement and Section 40(5) - Personal Information**

Overall Harm for Sections 24 and 31

Any release under FOIA is a disclosure to the world, not just to the individual making the request. To confirm or not that information is held pertinent to this request would reveal whether GMP has monitored people in Urmston as part of the Prevent programme. Modern-day policing is intelligence led, and this is particularly pertinent regarding both law enforcement and national security. The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to them to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety, regardless of who the individual may be.

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable.

The current UK threat level from international terrorism, based on intelligence, is assessed as substantial which means that a terrorist attack is likely. In order to counter criminal and terrorist behaviour, it is vital that the police have the ability to work together, where necessary covertly, to obtain intelligence within current legislative frameworks to assist in the investigative process to ensure the successful arrest and prosecution of offenders who commit or plan to commit acts of terrorism or safeguard those who are vulnerable to being drawn into any criminal activity. To achieve this goal, it is vitally important that information sharing takes place between police officers, members of the public, police forces as well as other law enforcement bodies within the United Kingdom. Such action would support counter terrorism measures in the fight to deprive terrorist networks of their ability to commit crime.

The impact of providing information, if held, under FOI, which aids in identifying whether GMP monitors people in Urmston and refers them where necessary to Prevent, would

provide those intent on committing criminal or terrorists acts with valuable information as to where the police are targeting their investigations. In addition, to confirm or deny whether information is held in this case would likely undermine the flow of information (intelligence) received from members of the public into the Police Service relating to these types of offenders, thereby undermining National Security and leaving the United Kingdom at risk of more terrorist attacks. Disclosure of information, if held, specifically where data is sought on the reason for a referral, could lead to distrust and a lack of confidence in the police that its officers or staff were biased and unwilling to aid or favoured certain sectors of the community.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S24 –

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and resources distributed within an area of policing, particularly regarding how the police investigate terrorist offending. To confirm or deny whether information exists would enable the public to hold GMP to account in relation to how they gather intelligence when monitoring people in Urmston as part of the Prevent programme. Furthermore, confirming or denying may improve public debate and assist the community to take steps to protect themselves.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S24 –

Considering the current security climate within the United Kingdom, no information which may aid a terrorist should be disclosed. To what extent this information may aid a terrorist is unknown, but it will have an impact on a force's ability to monitor terrorist activity. The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions regarding their safety and protection. The only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain. If this information was held and disclosed, and it was to highlight that a particular force is more acceptable to the indoctrination of extremist ideology, this information could be used by terrorists to significantly affect the national infrastructure by targeting their attacks/extremist ideology.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S30 –

Confirming or denying whether information exists relevant to this request would lead to a better-informed public by identifying that GMP robustly investigates all individuals. This fact alone may encourage individuals to provide intelligence to assist with investigations and would also promote public trust in providing transparency and demonstrating openness and accountability into where the police are currently focusing their investigations. The public are also entitled to know how public funds are spent.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S30 –

Modern-day policing is intelligence led. To confirm or not whether GMP has investigated any individuals in Urmston, which has resulted in referrals to the Prevent program, could hinder the prevention and detection of crime. An ongoing investigation may be affected by making an individual aware of whether they are being investigated.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S31 –

Data is published on a national level regarding Prevent referrals and for GMP to demonstrate openness and transparency, this favours confirmation of whether data is held relating to Urmston.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S31 –

GMP has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. If an FOI disclosure revealed information to the world (by citing an exemption or stating no information held) that would assist an offender, it would undermine the security of the national infrastructure by revealing our 'intelligence' thereby highlighting vulnerabilities force by force. A member of staff would become aware and edit their behaviour so as not to draw attention to their beliefs or activities.

To confirm that the requested information is held could be used as a comparison across all forces, if similar requests were made under FOIA. This could be used to identify which areas had a lower or higher level of Prevent referrals, and an assumption could be made of a greater importance being placed within each Force in identifying individuals and taking appropriate steps through a Prevent referral. This could impact on police resources because any disclosure of data, if held, could lead to some force areas being deemed to be 'softer' at managing this threat, and an officer could transfer to one of these areas to continue their operations and possibly then target vulnerable individuals.

By its very nature, by confirming or denying this information is held would undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. Under FOI there is a requirement to comply with s1(1)(a) and confirm what information is held. In some cases, it is that confirmation, or not, which could disclose facts harmful to members of the public and police officers or other law enforcement agencies.

Balance Test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming, or denying, whether information pertinent to this request exists. The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. As part of that policing purpose, various operations with other law enforcement bodies may or may not be ongoing. The Police Service will never divulge whether information is held if to do so would place the safety of individuals at risk or undermine national security. Whilst there is a public interest in appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals and terrorists, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding national security. As much as there is a public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions regarding their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released. Confirming or denying whether information is or isn't held would reveal policing activity and would assist those intent on causing harm. Any incident that results from confirmation or denial would, by default, affect national

security. GMP will not divulge information if it is likely that it will compromise the work of the Police Service or place members of the public at risk. It is known that terrorist cells will try to radicalise individuals so that they believe in their ideology to encourage them to commit acts of terror. Disclosure of the requested information would highlight which areas may have residents who are more susceptible to radicalisation and how each force tackles this within their communities. This will adversely affect GMP's ability to detect this type of crime as it may alter the behaviours of those preying on vulnerable individuals. This could put the individual's life at risk along with that of national security. No inference can be taken from this refusal that the information requested does or does not exist.

6. Trafford Youth Justice provides a range of child-centred, trauma-informed interventions to prevent offending and reduce reoffending. This includes early intervention and diversion through Out-of-Court Disposals (in partnership with Greater Manchester Police) and the GM Turnaround Programme, targeting children at risk of entering the justice system. All children receive a holistic assessment (AssetPlus or Prevention and Diversion Assessment for OoCR) and tailored plans addressing their individual risks and needs.

Trafford YJS delivers statutory court orders (e.g. Referral Orders, YROs, ISS) alongside offending behaviour work focusing on violence, substance misuse, and decision-making.

The service works closely with partners to provide support around education, training and employment, mental health and substance misuse, speech and communication needs, and family support. Restorative justice interventions are used to repair harm and promote accountability. A strong multi-agency approach (including social care, education, health, and GMP) ensures risks such as exploitation are addressed. YJS also supports resettlement from custody and provides access to positive diversionary activities such as sport, mentoring, and community programmes.

Overall, Trafford YJS focuses on early intervention, addressing underlying causes of offending, and supporting children to achieve sustainable, positive outcomes and reduce their risk levels.

As this is a partnership with other agencies, Trafford Council and the NHS may be able to provide further details.

7. This information is exempt under **Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible By Other Means**. The College of Policing produce an Authorised Professional Practice for missing person investigations. This is available on their website: [Missing persons | College of Policing](#).
8. This information is not held by GMP. The Freedom of Information act only covers requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to conduct analysis on information held, which is what would be required to attribute "concern" or the impact of crime.
9. This information is not held by GMP.