

Date: 14/07/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016977/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016977/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide data for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26, broken down by year for the following:

The total number of individuals arrested by your force for offences related to Indecent Images of Children or Sexual Communication with a Child.

In how many of those specific arrests did your force submit a child protection referral (or multi-agency safeguarding hub / MASH referral) to local authority social services because a child was resident in the home of the suspect?

Of the referrals identified in Question 2, how many resulted in emergency police protection powers (Section 46 of the Children Act 1989) being exercised to remove the child?

In how many of those specific arrests did your force submit a child protection referral (or multi-agency safeguarding hub / MASH referral) to local authority social services where the child(ren) in question were not residing in the same home as the suspect?

Of the referrals identified in Question 4, how many resulted in emergency police protection powers (Section 46 of the Children Act 1989) being exercised to remove the child?

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 MARAC referrals would involve a manual search of all relevant arrests to see if it is recorded that there was a MARAC referral.

A search of our arrest records shows that there are 1,844 records 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 150 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. 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 and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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. 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.