

Date: 21st July 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017001/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017001/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following data broken down by year, capturing the snapshot date of 1st January for each year from 2016 to 2026 inclusive (or the closest available operational date to that window):

1. Staffing & Caseload Tiers

A) The total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) headcount of dedicated police officers and staff (e.g., MOSVO, SOMU, or VISOR teams) whose primary, dedicated role is the active community management and supervision of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs).

B) The total number of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) actively managed by your force on that date.

2. Enforcement and Outcomes

For the 12-month period prior to each given snapshot date (e.g., the 12 months leading up to 1st January 2026, 1st January 2025, etc.), please provide:

A) The total number of recorded offences for Breach of Notification Requirements (Sexual Offences Act 2003), and the number of those offences that resulted in a Charge / Summons outcome.

B) The total number of recorded offences for Breach of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) or Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO), and the number of those offences that resulted in a Charge / Summons outcome.

Advice and Assistance (Section 16): If providing the full 10-year historical dataset for any specific question exceeds the statutory cost limit under Section 12, please prioritize the data starting from the most recent year (2026) and work backwards as far as the cost limit allows, rather than issuing a blanket refusal.

Please provide the data in a machine-readable format, such as a CSV file or Excel spreadsheet.

CLARIFICATION

However, if you can only provide information for 2024 onwards that is acceptable.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies

Question 1a has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

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.

Harm

Disclosure of the number of Police Officers and staff in specific areas of policing reveals tactical capability and vulnerabilities from force to force and would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of Greater Manchester Police. To disclose operational strength would hinder Greater Manchester Police in law enforcement capabilities.

The safety of the public is of a paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the number of specially trained police officers and staff that are specifically dedicated to sex offender management would compromise the safety of the public that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect.

Furthermore, this would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of Greater Manchester Police in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This would also give an advantage to those intent on committing crimes and avoid detection.

Factors in favour of disclosure

To disclose how many specialist roles there are within this area of policing would show accountability of Greater Manchester Police in performing a key policing function. Disclosure would encourage public awareness and debate and may reduce crime or lead to more information being provided to Greater Manchester Police from the public for the prevention and detection of crime. Disclosure could be seen how Greater Manchester Police are using its resources to prevent crime.

Furthermore, there is always a need to disclose information which relates to the spending of public money. It is in the public's interest to see how resources are balanced across Greater Manchester Police.

Factors against disclosure

To disclose details of specially trained police officers and staff that are specifically dedicated to sex offender management would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the force, especially the force's future law enforcement tactics being compromised. The safety of the public is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect and place individuals at risk.

Disclosure would lead to a greater impact on police resources, in that this could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and more crime being committed. It would give advantage to those individuals intent on criminal activity as it may assist potential criminals in evading the police as more vulnerable areas of lower policing levels would become evident. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify vulnerable areas and target and exploit these areas resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be Greater Manchester Police's accountability. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the police service is charged with enforcing the law; preventing and detecting crime and protecting the people/communities we serve.

In this case this is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime. I believe the case for disclosure is not made out.

The police will not divulge any information that would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing, and in this case providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminal activity, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the tactical resource capability which could highlight which forces are focussing more on this type of investigation than other force areas.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for the particular piece of information.

Please see the remainder of information which is not exempt below.

Question 1b

Year	Total
2024	3,386
2025	3,554
2026	3,719

Question 2a and 2b

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.

1. This data is based on all crimes recorded with the HO codes 068/07 Breach a sexual risk order / risk of sexual harm order etc or fail to comply with requirement under Sec 122 C (4) in relation to a sexual risk order and 068/08 Breach of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order recorded for each calendar year between 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2025.
2. Duplicates have been removed where possible.
3. Data for both total crime volumes and volumes of crimes with either a Charge or Summons Outcome have been provided.
4. Please note the data is based on the 'Crime recorded' date not the 'Crime committed' date
5. The data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/ or updated.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
068/07 Recorded Crimes	29	9	25	44	55	27	25	23	47	55	339
Number of Charge/ Summons	22	6	17	26	29	18	15	17	31	44	225
068/08 Recorded Crimes	75	102	115	129	127	167	156	292	344	363	1,870
Number of Charge/ Summons	53	70	83	98	90	112	117	224	280	304	1,431