

Date: 20/07/2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017219/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017219/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I am requesting all information that you hold in relation to Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Aerial Phenomena sightings for the period 1st January 2025 to the 31st December 2025.

This includes all reports made by members of the public or employees of your force that include the following keywords:

UFO, UAP, UAV, USO, lights in the sky, aliens, extra-terrestrial beings, drones, orbs

This information should include date, time, location and the description given by the reporting person. No personal information of such witnesses should be included. Any reports that relate to vehicle registrations should be ignored.

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 the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would not be able to fulfil this FOI request without carrying out a review manually across all the related incidents located following a search of GMP systems.

A search has been carried out which has revealed over 370 records, however, to accurately disclose the number of these that are directly in ***relation to Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Aerial Phenomena sightings*** would mean trawling through each one to ensure the MO matches what you have requested as this type of data is not held in any other searchable manner. At a conservative rate of 5 minutes per each review, this FOI would take in the region of 30hrs to review and disclose.

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 a reduced time frame, alternatively, fewer keywords to see if this reduces the number of incidents located. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.