

Date: 19/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016928/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016928/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/05/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide historical data over the last 5 years in a spreadsheet format, csv or xlsx are acceptable;

- 1. How many arrests have been conducted in total***
- 2. How many instances of powers being invoked (such as stop search, custody searches, etc)***
- 3. How many of the above resulted in a use of force greater than "tactical communications" or "compliant handcuffing", i.e any use of force activity that has a physical harm element associated with it.***

If possible please remove any duplication, i.e stop searches that lead to arrest and subsequent custody searches could result in the return of 3 records.

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.

To respond to question 3 of your request would require a substantial manual review of all the recorded figures within question 2. This amounts to over 13,000 and would result in arrest records crossed with multiple systems being interrogated to locate the required data, as this is not stored in any central

location. As such, it is expected that approximately 20 minutes per review would be needed to complete this part of the FOI and as such would far exceed the 18hrs permitted in the FOIA.

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 question 3. Alternatively, some information may already be in the public domain via GMP's publication scheme [Published items - Use of force | Greater Manchester Police](#).

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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

- **Data provide is from GMP's custody branch.**
- **Data for question 2 relates to only searches conducted within custody and does not include Stop and search.**

1. 314,745.
2. The total number of strip searches conducted in custody is 13,197.
3. See exemption above.