

Date: 01/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016865/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016865/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/05/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'd be grateful for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. If possible, please provide annual totals in calendar years.

1. *For the years 2020-25, please give annual totals for the number of cannabis farms your force has discovered.*
2. *Of these cannabis farms (1.) how many were found in residential properties? Again, please give annual totals for the years 2020-2025.*
3. *Can you put a total street value on the amount of cannabis plants discovered for each year?*
4. *Please include details of any measures the force is taking to tackle the use of cannabis farms by organised criminal networks, in particular the trend of repurposing people's homes to grow the drugs.*

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 in question 3 would involve a manual search of all crimes related to cannabis farms to see if the monetary value of the cannabis seized is recorded, as no central record of this information is kept.

A search of our crime records show that there are 3,013 crimes 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 251 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. In order 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.