

Tuesday, 19 May 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016899/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016899/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/05/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025:

The number of recorded offences, investigations, or incidents relating to:

a) cannabis cultivation, cannabis production, cannabis farms, or cannabis factories.

b) keeping or managing a brothel (Home Office offence code 024/19).

Where possible, please state whether the premises relating to the offences/investigations/incidents were classified as residential or commercial; the property type (e.g. private dwelling, flat, HMO, social housing, industrial unit, retail premises, hotel, short-term let); whether the premises were owner-occupied, privately rented, socially rented, or of unknown tenure.

Clarification

To clarify, regarding Part a), we are only interested in offence code 092/21, production of a cannabis plant. We are specifically looking into the prevalence of indoor 'cannabis farms'.

For both parts a) and b), we are specifically interested in the types of premises concerned, as we are investigating the methods by which criminals obtain premises for illegal businesses.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To ascertain the detail for type of premises would involve a manual search of all

relevant record as there are no tools/filters on our system to promptly generate the data. From initial searches carried out a total of 3,021 records would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting should not include the premises data request. 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.

Although this removes GMP's obligations under the Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request please see below.

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.

- This data contains Home Office codes 024/19 and 092/21 with a created date between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2025, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

024/19:

Crime Created on Date : Calendar Year	Crime Volume
2020	0
2021	1
2022	0
2023	1
2024	0
2025	3

092/21:

Crime Created on Date : Calendar Year	Crime Volume
2020	543
2021	588
2022	561
2023	492
2024	463
2025	369