

Date: 22/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017094/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017094/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following recorded information held by Greater Manchester Police relating to non-recent / historical sexual offence investigations.

Please provide data for each of the last 10 financial years (or the closest available period if not held in that format).

1. Case progression timestamps (core request)

For recorded historical sexual offence investigations, please provide the median or average durations (in days) for the following stages:

a. Date of initial report → date of Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) victim interview (or first formal victim statement)

b. Date of initial report → date of first suspect interview under caution

c. Date of initial report → date case file submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

d. Date of initial report → CPS charging decision outcome (charged / no further action / other disposal)

2. Court outcome timelines (where applicable)

For cases resulting in prosecution:

e. Date of initial report → date of first Crown Court trial listing (not hearing completion)

f. Date of charge → date of first Crown Court trial listing

3. Case outcome volumes (context data)

For each year, please also provide:

g. Number of historical sexual offence investigations recorded

h. Number resulting in charge

i. Number resulting in “no further action” or outcome not proceeding to charge

4. Definitions and recording practice

Please confirm:

j. GMP’s operational definition of “historical” or “non-recent” sexual offences

k. Whether stage dates (report, ABE, suspect interview, CPS submission, charge) are systematically recorded in auditable systems

5. Data limitations

If exact averages or medians are not held, please provide:

- ***the closest recorded performance indicators, or***
- ***any internal management information used to monitor investigation times***

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to this request.

We cannot complete your request within the statutory 18-hour limit. To provide this data, we would need to run separate annual reports and apply manual formulas to calculate the duration between the offence date and the creation date. This step is required to identify historic cases.

Furthermore, we would have to manually review the Modus Operandi (MO) and Description fields for each case to verify the offence details and confirm they meet your specific criteria. Additional annual formulas would also be required to calculate overall case durations.

Finally, much of the specific timestamp data you requested is not held in an extractable format. Retrieving it would require a manual audit of individual records. For context, we have identified over 12,000 records for the 2025/2026 period alone. Manually reviewing this volume of data would vastly exceed the appropriate cost and time limits set by the FOI Act.

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 questions 1 and 2 and to include a time for your definition of "historical", In addition, please limit the request to a question such as the total number of cases of sexual offences reported between your dates, and then you can attempt to apply question 3 for any breakdowns. 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.