

Date: 23/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017107/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017107/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This request concerns how your force records and responds to reports involving targeted sexualised graffiti or written material in public or publicly accessible places — in particular where the writing includes a named person's details, telephone number, sexualised allegations, invitations to contact them for sexual purposes, or wording likely to expose them to harassment, alarm, distress, unwanted sexual contact or safeguarding risk.

Purpose and public interest

This is a matter of significant public interest. Conduct of this kind appears likely to disproportionately affect women and girls and may fall within the scope of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), sexual harassment, stalking, harassment, safeguarding and repeat-victimisation frameworks. The purpose of this request is to establish whether such conduct is recorded, searchable and addressed by policy at all — and whether there is a gap in how forces identify, flag and respond to it. Whether or not the information is held is itself revealing: an absence of any recording mechanism or policy would indicate that this form of harassment is effectively invisible within force systems.

Scope, cost and priority

I am not asking you to manually review individual case files. Please answer by reference to information that is already recorded, searchable, coded, tagged, flagged or otherwise retrievable from your systems.

I am not seeking personal data about victims, suspects, witnesses, reporting persons or venue staff, and I do not seek disclosure of any information that would identify any individual case. Where any part would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12, please answer the remaining parts and provide advice and assistance under section 16 as to how the request could be refined, rather than refusing the request as a whole.

Priority: if the cost limit is engaged, please prioritise Parts 1 to 4, which should be answerable without manual case review, and apply section 16 advice and assistance to Parts 5 to 10.

Time period: please provide information for each calendar year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, and for 1 January 2026 to the date of your search. Please provide figures in spreadsheet format where possible.

Part 1 — Recording and searchability

Please confirm whether your force holds any searchable flag, tag, marker, keyword, crime category, occurrence type or recording mechanism that would allow this type of conduct to be identified as:

- **sexualised graffiti**
- **targeted sexual harassment**
- **publication of personal data in a public place**
- **phone-number graffiti**
- **public-place sexual harassment**
- **VAWG-related conduct**
- **stalking or harassment-related conduct**
- **repeat victimisation**

If no such mechanism exists, please say so clearly.

Part 2 — Keyword counts

Please provide the number of recorded reports, incidents, crimes, logs or occurrences containing one or more of the following searchable terms, if held:

"graffiti", "toilet graffiti", "sexual graffiti", "sexualised graffiti", "public toilet", "cubicle", "written in toilet", "phone number", "mobile number", "prostitute", "slag", "slut", "whore", "busty", "sex", "call me", "for sex", "sexual harassment"

If your systems cannot search by these terms, please explain what search terms, flags, crime categories or recording methods are available for this type of conduct.

Part 3 — Policies, guidance and training

Please provide copies of any policy, guidance, training material, briefing note, crime-recording guidance or risk-assessment guidance held by your force concerning how officers or staff should respond to reports involving:

- **sexualised graffiti**
- **graffiti or written material naming a person as sexually available**
- **graffiti or written material publishing a person's phone number or other personal data**
- **graffiti inviting strangers to contact a named person for sexual purposes**
- **sexual harassment in public or publicly accessible places**
- **anonymous third-party harassment through writing in toilets or public venues**
- **repeat reports of sexualised public-place harassment**
- **safeguarding or vulnerability concerns arising from this type of conduct**
- **links between this conduct and stalking, harassment, domestic abuse or VAWG**

If no such document is held, please say so clearly.

Part 4 — Reviews, analysis and problem profiles

Please provide copies of any analysis, review, problem profile, equality impact assessment, VAWG assessment, local briefing, crime-pattern analysis or strategic document held from 1 January 2021 onwards concerning:

- **sexualised graffiti**
- **graffiti targeting named women or girls**
- **use of public toilets or public venues to publish personal data**
- **harassment involving phone numbers written in public places**
- **anonymous public-place harassment of women or girls**
- **sexual harassment in supermarkets, service stations, cinemas, hospitals, schools, hospitality venues, transport hubs or similar publicly accessible locations**

If no such document is held, please say so clearly.

Parts 5 to 10 — Recorded characteristics of the reports in Part 2

For Parts 5 to 10, please answer only to the extent the information is retrievable from existing coded or structured fields without manual review of individual case files. Where it is not so retrievable, please state that rather than incurring cost or refusing the request as a whole.

Part 5 — Publication of personal data

Of the reports identified, the number where the writing included, if held:

- *a named person's telephone number*
- *a named person's address*
- *a named person's social media handle*
- *a named person's workplace or school*
- *a photograph or image of the person*
- *other identifying personal data*

Part 6 — Victim sex / gender

- *victim/complainant recorded as female*
- *recorded as male*
- *recorded as another gender category*
- *victim sex/gender not recorded or not retrievable*

Part 7 — Age and vulnerability markers

- *child victim*
- *adult victim*
- *victim recorded as vulnerable*
- *safeguarding concerns recorded*
- *repeat victimisation*

Part 8 — Location type

- *supermarket or retail premises*
- *service station*
- *cinema or leisure venue*
- *hospital, clinic or healthcare premises*
- *school, college or university*
- *pub, restaurant, hotel or hospitality venue*
- *public toilets*
- *workplace*
- *transport hub*
- *other publicly accessible premises*
- *private dwelling*
- *other / unknown*

Part 9 — Crime or incident classification

- *harassment*
- *stalking*
- *malicious communications*
- *public order*
- *criminal damage*
- *sexual offence*
- *hate crime*
- *domestic abuse*
- *violence against women and girls / VAWG*
- *safeguarding*
- *vulnerability*
- *repeat victimisation*
- *non-crime incident*
- *no further action / no crime recorded*

Part 10 — Outcome

- *resulted in a recorded crime*
- *resulted in an arrest*
- *resulted in a voluntary interview*
- *resulted in a charge or summons*
- *resulted in a caution, community resolution or other out-of-court disposal*
- *closed with no suspect identified*
- *closed with no further action*

- ***where CCTV, venue records, cleaning logs or other third-party evidence was requested or reviewed, if recorded***

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

To respond to parts 2 and 5 to 10 of this request, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) would need to manually review a substantial volume of records. We do not hold information on the specified keywords in a searchable field that allows for easy extraction. Consequently, a manual review is the only way to determine what data GMP holds regarding recorded reports, incidents, crimes, logs, or occurrences.

Initial searches for these sections have returned over 76,000 results. Each record will require individual trawling to check if it matches your criteria. We estimate that completing this task would significantly exceed the 18-hour statutory time limit. Therefore, this request cannot be fulfilled in its current form.

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.

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 significant reduction in the volume of required information, specifically reducing/removing parts 5-10 and in addition a reduction in the time frame.

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.