

Date: 03/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015329/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015329/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

On 13th February 2025, GMP Stockport undertook a day of Operation AVRO.

On 14th February, Chief Superintendent Lewis Hughes of the Stockport Division announced 65 arrests had taken place on 13th February as part of Operation AVRO (<https://www.gmp.police.uk/news/greater-manchester/news/news/2025/february/65-arrests-10-warrants-and-55-traffic-offences-reported-during-productive-operation-avro-in-stockport/>).

I am seeking the following, which is in the public interest:

Of the 65 arrests on 13th February, as per above:

- 1. How many of the 65 individuals were taken into custody?*
- 2. How many of the 65 were charged locally (GMP charging)?*
- 3. How many of the 65 were referred to CPS for charging decision?*
- 4. How many, of those referred to CPS, were charged?*
- 5. How many of the 65, to date, have been convicted on an offence/s as a result of the 13th February OpAVRO event?*
- 6. How many of the 65, to date, are awaiting court hearing/trial for an offence/s as a result of the 13th February OpAVRO event?*
- 7. How many of the 65 arrests were no further actioned without a file sent to CPS for charging decision?*
- 8. How many of the 65 arrests were no further actioned after CPS referred the file back to GMP with no offence for charging.*

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 some of 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 would involve a manual search of all arrest records from 13/02/2025 to establish if the arrest related to Operation Avro in Stockport. It is not possible to search our custody system for arrests linked to a particular operation.

A search of our custody records shows that there were 229 arrests on this day. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 19 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.

Please note that GMP do not hold any information in relation to questions 5 and 6 of your request. Please contact His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service for this information.