



Date: 04/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016310/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016310/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Request for Arrest Data Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to request the following data relating to arrests made by Greater Manchester Police:

1. *Total number of arrests made by GMP in each of the last three full calendar years (e.g., 2023, 2024, 2025), broken down by town, district, or neighbourhood within the Greater Manchester Police area.*
 - a. *For example: Manchester City Centre, Salford, Oldham, Bolton, Stockport, Tameside, Rochdale, Trafford, Wigan, Bury, etc.*
2. *For each town/area listed above, please provide:*
 - a. *The number of arrests for each year requested.*
 - b. *If available, a breakdown of arrests by offence type (e.g., violence against the person, theft, drugs, public order) for each area.*
 - c. *Clarification of the geographic boundaries used (e.g., neighbourhood policing areas, wards, or other council boundaries).*
3. *If possible, please also include the dataset in a machine-readable format (CSV, Excel, etc.) rather than an image or PDF.*

If the force considers any part of this request to be unclear or overly broad, please contact me so it can be refined.

I understand that the response is required within 20 working days of receipt under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 questions 2 b and c would involve a manual search all arrests to determine the offence category, as arrests are not categorised in the same way as recorded crimes, and also the precise location.

A search of our arrest records shows there are approximately 200,000 arrests 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 16,666 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