



Date: 05/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016319/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016319/L

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

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025.

1. *Do you record 'parental conflict' as a risk factor / vulnerability marker or equivalent in your missing children reports?*
2. *If the answer to question 1 is yes, please tell us:*
 - a. *How many missing incidents were reported in relation to missing children (those aged 0-17)?*
 - b. *In how many of those incidents was 'parental conflict' identified?*
3. *If the answer to 1 is no, please tell us:*
 - a. *Do you routinely record another type of risk factor / vulnerability marker that is similar or equivalent to parental conflict? If so, please list those here*
 - b. *How many missing incidents were reported in relation to missing children (those aged 0-17)?*
 - c. *In how many of those incidents was / were the answer(s) to 3a identified?*

The definition of parental conflict is: Some level of arguing and conflict between parents is often a normal part of everyday life. However, there is strong evidence to show how inter-parental conflict that is frequent, intense and poorly resolved can have a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances.

Damaging conflict between parents can be expressed in many ways such as:

- *unresolved arguing*
- *silence*
- *lack of respect*
- *lack of resolution*

Conflict can affect children in all types of parental relationships, including:

- *parents who are in a relationship, whether married or not*
- *parents who have separated or divorced*
- *biological and step parents*
- *other family members playing a parenting role*
- *foster and adoptive parents*
- *same-sex couples*

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.

1. No.
2. N/A
3.
 - a. GMP do not use risk makers that can be searched on our incident recording system. If there is a risk factor this would be recorded as free text in the incident description.
 - b. 14,126
 - c. As this is not a searchable field on our incident recording system, we can not answer this question within the cost limit specified in Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. To collate this information would involve a manual review of the 14,126 incidents mentioned in response to question 3B to see if the incident involves "parental conflict". At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, it would take approximately 1,177 hours to establish this information. 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