



Date: 05/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016328/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016328/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

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

Please provide me with the following information:

- 1. The number of arrests you made in 2023 under section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988.*
- 2. For the above, please provide a breakdown of the reason for arrest, e.g. social media post, hoax call, email, letter, etc.*

If this information is already publicly available, please direct me to where I can access it. Please also note that this request falls if you cannot help me with (2)

I would prefer to receive the information electronically, via email, in a machine-readable format if possible.

If you require any clarification to process this request, please let me know as soon as possible. Under the Act, I understand you are required to respond within 20 working days.

Thank you for your assistance.

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 question 2 would involve a manual search of all arrests under these two offences to establish the reason for the arrest. This is not a searchable field on our custody system and would necessitate a manual search of the custody log to see if this detail is recorded.

A search of our custody records shows there are 1,691 records 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 141 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.