



Date: 12/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016372/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016372/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I should appreciate it if you would provide the following information relating to your force area:

Autism is a disability under the Equality Act 2010 with disability being a protected characteristic.

I should be grateful if you would confirm:

- 1. The total number of serving police officers in your force area.*
- 2. The total number of serving police officers in your force area living with autism.*
- 3. The total number of police constable applicants in your force area since 1 January 2020 declaring that they are living with autism.*
- 4. The total number of police constable applicants recruited in your force area since 1 January 2020 declaring that they are living with autism.*
- 5. The total number of serving police officers in your force area who are living with autism and have been diagnosed since recruitment.*

If held, the above information may be provided in any free text format.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request.

GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in question 5 would involve a manual search of the occupational

health records of all officers who to establish if this information is recorded on their occupational health record.

GMP currently have 7,995 police officers employed. At a very conservative estimate of 20 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 2,665 hours to ascertain the data required.

To comply with the whole of your request the process would therefore take over 18 hours work and exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

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. 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. There will be no way to answer question 5 without having t manually review each individual officer's occupational health record.