

Date: 10/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016427/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016427/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

My request only applies to the military service personnel of the United States of America.

I understand that under this act, the government of the United States of America in certain cases will have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute a member of the US military for an offence that is alleged to have occurred in the United Kingdom (ie asserting primacy over the UK authorities).

This process has, for example, been set out in this policy paper published by the Norfolk and Suffolk constabularies.

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.norfolk.police.uk%2FSysSiteAssets%2Ffoi-media%2Fnorfolk%2Fpolicies%2Fvisiting-forces-policy.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomOfInformation%40gmp.police.uk%7Cbf309715a73945649f6508de6fc59f75%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C639071092035517656%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFOLjoiTWFPbClldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eZmGSrdEPmITMnzkgS1XpascCjXn4G00jQTJQfZgYGM%3D&reserved=0>

Under the act, I would like to ask how many times since January 1 2018 has the government of the United States of America asserted the primary right to exercise jurisdiction (ie primacy) over your force with regard to an offence that is alleged to have been committed by a member of the US visiting forces within your area.

For each occasion, I would like to ask :

What was the alleged offence;

Where did the alleged offence occur;

On what date did the alleged offence occur; Which base or facility was the member of the US visiting force attached to or working at; On what date was the primary right to exercise jurisdiction asserted by the United States of America government; Did the United States of America authorities then investigate the case, or did your force investigate the case.

I understand that if the UK authorities and the government of the United States of America are unable to agree on who should have jurisdiction, the case is referred to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Under the act, I would like to ask - since January 1 2018 - on how many occasions have such cases been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by your force.

For each occasion, I would like to ask :

- a) What was the alleged offence;***
- b) Where did the alleged offence occur;***
- c) On what date did the alleged offence occur;***
- d) Which base or facility was the member of the US visiting force attached to or working at;***
- e) On what date was the case referred to the Crown Prosecution Service;***
- f) What was the decision with respect to whether your force or the United States of America authorities should have jurisdiction.***

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to your request. The data needed to identify if the offender is military personnel is not an extractable field within our systems used for recording such information. We would need to manually trawl all crime reports and read through all the documents stored in each file establish what GMP hold that matches this FOI. This would take a considerable amount of time with us having an average of approximately 6000 crimes a week.

Under the circumstances I am confident that to locate, retrieve and extract any information you seek if held, would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in doing so would exceed the fees limits.

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.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

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 to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order 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.