

Date: 06/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016444/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016444/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of recorded crimes in your force area from 1 January 2018 to present where the location was a place of religious worship (church, mosque, synagogue, temple, gurdwara, or other).**
- 2. If available, please break down these figures by type of religious site and by crime category (e.g., criminal damage, arson, burglary, hate crime, assault).**
- 3. If your force does not hold records that identify crimes at places of religious worship, please provide a justification for this. For example:**
 - The location type is not available to record on your reporting system
 - It has never been recorded in this level of detail
 - Officers are instructed not to record that particular location type
 - Other reasons (please specify)
- 4. Please confirm whether your crime recording system (e.g., NICHE, Athena, or other) has a field for "location type" and whether "religious site" is an available option.**
- 5. Please state whether there are any plans to improve recording granularity for crimes against religious sites.**

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

Caveats

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/01/2018 and 23/02/2026 where the MO keyword category is 'place of worship', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data.
- MO keywords are only available for new and migrated crimes.
- There can be more than one MO keyword attached to a crime.
- The MO keywords are not mandatory and may not be completed.
 - There may be relevant records missing from our response where this field has not been completed.
 - As these are optional fields, an increase or decrease in crime volume where these fields are part of the filtering may not indicate a true increase or decrease of the volume of these crimes but may reflect a change in usage of this field.

Questions 1 and 2.

Crime	Total	PO Worship	Total
Violence without injury	206	Mosque	398
Vehicle offences	75	Church	1321
All other theft offences	307	Not Applicable	327
Criminal damage and arson offences	418	Chapel	16
Business and community burglary	351	Temple	19
Violence with injury	131	Synagogue	75
Stalking and harassment	126	Cathedral	20
Public order offences	313		
Miscellaneous crimes against society	25		
Robbery of personal property	12		
Rape	37		
Bicycle theft	25		
Theft from the person	17		
Other sexual offences	62		
Possession of drugs	33		
Residential burglary	13		
Trafficking of drugs	7		
Possession of weapon offences	13		
Homicide	3		
Robbery of business property	2		

Question 3.

N/A

Question 4.

GMP have an option field listed as - 'location: place of worship'

Question 5.

Not at present.