

Date: 10/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016464/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016464/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request information held by your police force relating to recorded crime cases where a suspect was identified, but no prosecution or formal disposal took place because the statutory time limit for prosecution expired. For example, the six-month time limit for summary-only offences or other applicable prosecution or custody time limits.

Specifically, please provide the following for each of the last five full calendar years:

- 1. The number of recorded crime cases where a suspect was identified and the case was closed, finalised, or resulted in no further action because the prosecution time limit expired before charge, caution, or other disposal***

A breakdown of these cases by the recorded reason for expiry or delay, for example (but not limited to):

- 2. failure to complete a suspect interview before the time limit administrative or case-handling delay staff availability or resourcing issues, including sickness or workload evidential delays other recorded reasons***

If your police force does not record a single explicit category for "prosecution time limit expired", please provide the closest equivalent data held. For example, cases flagged as "time-barred", "out of time", or similar.

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 some of 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 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2025, where the Crime Latest Outcome : HO Outcome code is 17 (Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired), where there is at least one suspect attached, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

Question 1.

Year	Total Outcome 17
2020	750
2021	1,800
2022	1,658
2023	1,355
2024	1,504
2025	753
Total	7,820

Question 2.

GMP do not have a field to record anything under this field. To understand if/what GMP held would require a full manual review of each file and as such this would trigger a S12 refusal notice for the full request. However, on this occasion I have not issued a S12 noticed in order to still supply part 1 of your requested information.