

Date: 06/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016485/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016485/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting information for reporting purposes about recorded crimes in which the social media platform Snapchat was used in connection with offences involving violence or sexual harm.

Please provide the following for each calendar year from 2021 to 2026, including:

- 1. The number of recorded crimes in which Snapchat was identified as being used in connection with the offence, limited to offences involving:***
 - Sexual offences (including sexual exploitation or grooming of a child), or***
 - Physical violence against a person***
- 2. A breakdown of the types of offences involved (e.g. rape, sexual assault, child grooming, assault, etc.) for each year.***
- 3. For the same offences, the age and gender of victims.***
- 4. Where recorded, the number of offences in which Snapchat location-sharing or geolocation features (for example Snap Map or live location sharing) were used by a suspect to identify, contact, or target the victim.***

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.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be required to complete a manual review of all the results located following a search of all sexual offences and violence against the person offences to understand how many are linked to Snapchat being used in connection with the offence. Due to how we recorded and store this information, we are unable to extract this precise data in another way. Preliminary results have provided over 10,000 records between 01/01/21 – 03/03/26. To review each of this would far exceed the 18hrs under the FOIA 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.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a substantially reduced time frame. The nature of your request asks for any records where "snapchat" is specifically related to an offence, this information will always require a review due to how it's held in which case you may wish to revise how this question is worded. For example, to ask for The number of recorded crimes in which Snapchat was identified as being mentioned in the MO. This ultimately won't provide the outcome of what your initially looking for but may provide some data. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

You may also find this information helpful which is already published via the GMP Publication Scheme.

[Published items - Snapchat | Greater Manchester Police](#)