

Date: 09/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016517/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016517/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1.

For the period 1 January 2023 to present, please provide:

1. The number of cases where digital material extracted from a victim or complainant's personal device (e.g., mobile phone downloads) was subsequently used as evidence in misconduct or gross misconduct proceedings against that same victim/complainant, where that person was also a police officer or police staff member.

2. Of those cases, the number that resulted in:

- * a misconduct meeting***
- * a gross misconduct hearing***
- * placement on the Police Advisory List***
- * placement on the Police Barred List***

Please provide aggregate figures only. No personal data is requested.

2.

For the period 1 January 2023 to present:

1. The number of misconduct or gross misconduct investigations involving police officers or police staff where private digital communications from a personal device (e.g., WhatsApp, SMS, private messaging platforms) formed part of the evidential basis.

2. Of those cases, please provide the number where the communications were:

- * from a work-related group chat***
- * from private one-to-one communications unrelated to work***

Please provide aggregate numbers only.

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.

Offences held by GMP Professional Standards Directorate would be recorded under an over arching offence such as gross misconduct, conduct and behaviour etc. To narrow this down to be as specific as you have requested would result in a manual review of all Misconduct cases having to be carried out as this would be the only way we could extract the data you require. This equates to over 900 cases for the time frame requested. Due to the size of the review this request could not be completed in under 18hrs.

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 reduced time frame and a decrease in the volume of required data and breakdowns. 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.