



Date: 30/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016187/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016187/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

For the last 3 full calendar years (2023/24/25) and for as much of 2026 as possible please can you supply:

- 1. The number of pupils found in school with a weapon or dangerous implement. Please break down according to primary/secondary school.*
- 2. The number and type of weapons or dangerous implements seized from schools. Please break down according to primary/secondary.*
- 3. The number and age of school pupils charged with offences relating to possession of a weapon or dangerous implement.*
- 4. The number who were then prosecuted in court, given a caution or no further action was taken.*
- 5. Of those who were prosecuted, the type of punishment handed down.*

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in questions 1 and 3 would involve a manual search all

crimes recorded under the following Home Office offence codes to establish whether the offence occurred in a primary or secondary school:

- 008/27 Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises
- 008/28 Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises
- 008/62 Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises
- 008/63 Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises

A search of our crime records shows that there are over 300 crimes that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 25 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. 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.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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.