



Date: 17/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016202/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016202/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information covering the period 1st January 2020 to 19th January 2026.

The total number of applications made by your police service to the Family Court seeking the release or disclosure of any written material originating from ongoing or concluded Child Arrangements Order proceedings.

This should include applications made by consent, by contested application, or otherwise, and should be counted as the number of applications made, not the number of cases.

In respect of the applications identified at question 1, please provide a breakdown showing how many resulted in:

- a) full disclosure of the material sought*
- b) partial disclosure of the material sought*
- c) refusal of disclosure*
- d) withdrawal of the application*
- e) applications still pending or unresolved (if applicable)*

If the information is not held in the exact format requested, please provide it in the closest available format.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am not seeking any information relating to identifiable individuals or specific cases, only aggregated numerical data.

I am content to receive the information in electronic format.

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 would involve a manual search of 437 legal files to ascertain whether they are relevant to your request. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 36 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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.