

Date: 15/04/2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016645/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016645/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Q1. From 1st July 2025 - 30th September 2025, how many dispersal orders were issued to individuals identified as rough sleepers?

Q2. From 1st July 2025 - 30th September 2025, how many people were arrested under the Vagrancy Act?

Q3. From 1st July 2025- 30th September 2025, how many times did officers move on people deemed to be sleeping rough?

Q4. Does your Force have guidance/policy in place that details if rough sleepers should be moved on from locations ahead of community events? If yes, please provide a copy of this guidance/policy

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to question 3 of this FOI. We do not record if an officer has simply moved "**on people deemed to be sleeping rough**". This would be a case of an officer on patrol approaching an individual and making such request, this may be noted in the officers pocket notebook, but unless any arrests have been made, we would not be aware of how many times any of this has been carried out. A manual review would be the only way to ascertain if we hold such data by asking all officers to check their pocket notebooks and provide any evidence logged. This would most certainly be a request that could not be completed in under 18hrs.

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.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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 the removal of question 3. 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.