

Date: 01/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016732/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016732/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***Please can you provide me with the total number of disclosures made under the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS), commonly known as "Sarah's Law" since the constabulary-wide roll out on the 4th April 2011 until the 4th April 2026.
If these dates are too wide then please focus on the first ten years- 4th April 2011 until 4th April 2021.***

Clarification - I have asked for the total number of disclosures relating to the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (Sarah's law). I would also like to request the total number of requests for the same time period.

To be clear that is total number of requests and total number of disclosures from nationwide roll-out on 4th April 2011 until the 4th April 2026. Please supply the figures for each calendar year.

If these dates are too wide then please focus on the first ten years.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

Data prior to 2021 would not be obtainable without carrying out a substantial review manually as the data is not held in a any format that allows for extraction. All requests from 2011-2021 would have to

be reviewed to understand which match this FOI request. This process requires support from multiple departments within GMP to search legacy databases. Consequently, the task cannot be completed within the 18-hour timeframe.

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 from 2021 to present. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Caveats

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing – the systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold. Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.

- Data provided is data published to the Home Office quarterly that can be extracted within the time frame.

	Applications	Disclosures	% disclosed
April 2021-March 2022	100	45	45.0%
April 2022-March 2023	128	40	31.3%
April 2023-March 2024	263	78	29.7%
April 2024-March 2025	345	111	32.2%
April 2025-March 2026	107	47	43.9%
Total	943	321	34.0%