

Date: 01/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016751/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016751/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

My Freedom of Information enquiry is in relation to illegal vape sales, whether these are underage sales or sales of non-UK compliant vape products.

Could you tell me please, how many closure orders of shops were sought by your force for illegal vape sales in the calendar year 2025?

How many of these orders were granted?

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.

GMP do not hold the information sought after in this FOI in a central location that allows for easy extraction. This type of data is held within multiple detailed trackers, and a review manually would be the only route to obtain such information. This is because our central trackers do not specify the usage of a premises (ie commercial or residential) subject to either a closure notice or closure order and so we could not determine which applications were specifically for premises selling any type of goods. In addition, our trackers do not specify the grounds for an application in any filtering options. From GMPs 2025-2026 tracker we have detected 116 records that would fall into this review stage. These are where GMP have been involved either as the direct applicant or in providing evidence / enforcement to a partner agency. Given the detailed nature of this review, providing an exact timeframe is challenging. However, based on an estimated 15 minutes per record, we anticipate the request will require approximately 29 hours to complete. This however could be subject to change.

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. However, 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.