

Date: 01/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016787/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016787/J

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

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. My request relates to com networks.

For the avoidance of doubt, we are defining com networks as online communities, of predominantly young men, which operate across social media, messaging platforms, and gaming platforms, to circulate harmful content, promote misogynistic ideologies, and groom vulnerable victims into abuse or violent behaviour, motivated by status, power, control or sexual gratification.

I would like to request the following information:

- 1. In the last 5 years, how many reports relating to com networks has your force received?***
- 2. For each year, how many arrests have been made relating to com networks? Please state the age of the arrested.***
- 3. For each year, how many charges have there been in relation to com networks? Please state the age of the charged.***
- 4. For each case, can you state if victim is in UK or overseas.***
- 5. When charges have been brought, what is age of youngest victim?***

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 your request. As there is no field search for this request, a review would need to be carried out using

keyword searches. However, we have attempted a search using 'com network' and this did not provide any results as on review the results it brought back did not relate to this FOI. As there is no specific field or flag that could identify crimes or incidents relating to 'com networks' the only route to attempt to understand what data GMP hold would be to review ALL crimes and incidents in this timeframe which under the FOIA would not be achievable with the costs limits due to the enormous volumes of records.

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.

Due to the nature of the search/review required in addition to a keyword search containing the information you require already being conducted to no avail, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.