

Date: 15/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016793/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016793/H

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

How many people detained under UK immigration legislation powers have been held in your force's police cells from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2025?

Please disaggregate by year, by police station and by length of detention, using the following lengths of detention:

- a. Up to 24 hours***
- b. 24-48***
- c. 48-72***
- d. 72-96***
- e. 96 - 120***
- f. 120 hours plus***

Of those held:

- 1. How many were released without restrictions?***
- 2. How many were released on immigration bail?***
- 3. How many were transferred to another place of detention?***

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.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this FOI it will require a substantial manual review of all the custody records that match this request. For the dates you have provided, GMP had over 23,000 Foreign national offenders, however not all would have been detained under immigration legislation.

To know how many of these match what you have asked would require trawling through each individual record to obtain the data required. Not only this, it would also require multiple reports to be generated to understand the length of any detentions as this information is not stored in a searchable format to easily extract. Due to the number of reviews, this FOI would most certainly exceed 18hrs.

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 much smaller timeframe. It would also help if you provided the CJSS code that matches what you require to see if this lowers any search results. 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.