GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Thursday, 22 October 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017856/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017856/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am doing a story on sex offenders who change their name via Deed Poll to avoid detection in the media during their trial or to start a new life after their trial.

Please can I have data for the number of sex offenders (out of the total number of offenders) who have changed their name (regardless of whether they changed it back again) in the force area over the past 5 years, broken down into individual calendar years as well?

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Caveats

- Search criteria - Notification History, Date Notified between min date=01/01/2021 and max date= 31/12/2025 inclusive AND Nominal Record, ViSOR Category=Registerable Sexual Offender AND Notification History, Reason=Notification of New Name
- This will exclude returns for:
    - Archived nominals – any nominal that has transferred out during that time – although they could have transferred back in under a new name having changed it in another force.
    - Those that have been deported. Those that have notified on initial registration, those that have changed the name, but no notification history was created by the OM. i.e. name just added to the names attachment on visor system.
- There is no way to accurately specify those that have legally changed a name by deed poll, the system does not record this information.

Data

2021 - 2 nominals
2022 - 19 nominals
2023 - 34 Nominals
2024 - 26 Nominals
2025 - 28 Nominals

Please note – section 84 and 85 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 make it an offence for a Registered Sex Offender to not inform police of a change in name. This is different to most other pieces of law because it makes this a positive requirement for the offender to tell police rather than the police finding out about it. This is an indictable offence with the potential for 5 months imprisonment.