Date: 22/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017871/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017871/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/10/2026, 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 the number of road traffic incidents where nitrous oxide was recorded.

I would like to request the following information:

1. In the last 5 years, how many incidents have there been where nitrous oxide has been recorded? Please include road traffic collisions and incidents where a driver has been stopped/pulled over by police. If possible please provide collisions and incidents data separately.

Furthermore, please break down the data as follows:
1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022
1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023
1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024
1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025
1st January 2026 - present day

2. For each year, how many of those incidents led to injury, and how many to deaths?

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to cost of compliance limits, please let me know how I can refine my request.

I look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days. If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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 all the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP are able to provide the number of "incidents" recorded where 'nitrous oxide' is present within the free text fields, however to fully know if they relate to the FOI we would need to review each one of them to gain an accurate picture. Our search have revealed over 1600 incident records where 'nitrous oxide' is present within the free text fields and to review each of these for exceed the 18hrs permitted within the FOIA.

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. 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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

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 exceeded (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.

Caveat
In relation to "Collision Data" only - *Nitrous oxide is not recorded within a dedicated field in the collision recording system and therefore cannot be directly identified through standard data extraction methods. To identify potential nitrous oxide-related collisions, keyword searches of free-text narrative fields were undertaken. The results are dependent upon the information recorded by the investigating officer and whether nitrous oxide use was explicitly referenced within the available text. As recording practices and terminology may vary, relevant collisions may not be captured, while some identified records may not confirm that nitrous oxide was a contributory factor in the collision. Consequently, the figures provided should be regarded as indicative rather than a definitive count of collisions involving nitrous oxide.*

Year	No Injury	Slight	Very Serious
2022	1	1	1
2023	3	3	
2024	10	2	

2025	9	3	
2026	7	3	
Total	30	12	1