Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 28/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017877/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017877/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. Could you please tell me:

1) *How many school lockdowns there have been over the last 12 months. Ideally, I would like this information as a list of the schools that have had emergency lockdowns, including the dates of the incidents. If providing a list of schools is not possible, please just provide the total number.*
2) *How many of these incidents were hoaxes vs credible threats? If a list of schools is provided in response to Q1, please detail this information for each separate incident and give a brief description of the nature of the incident. If not, please just provide the numbers for credible vs hoax*
3) *How much has responding to these incidents cost the police*

Could you also tell me about any new initiatives the police have implemented in the last 12 months designed to improve safety in schools.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all incidents to see if the incident related to a school lockdown. We do not have a specific incident category for school lockdowns or any way of determining which incidents occurred at schools.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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. For the force to keep this within the fees limit, you could supply a list of addresses you would like us to search for incidents at. 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 to see if any incidents relate to lockdowns.

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