



Date: 01/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017449/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017449/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

This request concerns incidents investigated by the police occurring during non-professional football matches.

I require the listed information about all incidents investigated by the police between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2025, which meet the below criteria.

Day of occurrence: SUNDAY ONLY

Location type/tag: Parks, Recreation Grounds, Playing Fields, or Sports Venues Keyword in log: "FOOTBALL" OR "REFEREE" OR "PITCH" OR "MATCH" OR "GAME"

Please state:

- 1) The date and time the incident took place.*
- 2) The location of the incident. Including the venue and city/town/village.*
- 3) The team who the alleged offender was playing for (if applicable).*
- 4) What potential crime was being investigated.*
- 5) What the outcome of the investigation was.*

If you have any queries about this request, please contact me on this email address.

If you are encountering practical difficulties complying with this request, please contact me so that we can discuss the matter and if necessary I can modify the request.

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 in question 3 would involve a manual search of all crime records that meet the criteria you have set to establish if the parties involved were players and if so, or which team they were playing.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 853 records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 71 hours to ascertain the data required. 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, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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.