Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 12/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017643/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017643/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please treat this as a request under the freedom of information legislation that applies to Greater Manchester Police.

I checked Greater Manchester Police's publication scheme and disclosure pages on 14 September 2026. I did not find an equivalent published dataset for these periods and stages.

I am requesting aggregated information about police officer recruitment. I do not require names, individual records, free-text responses, or information that could identify an applicant or officer.
Please provide only information already recorded electronically; I am not asking you to review individual files or create new information.

1. Recruitment stages

For each of 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, please provide the number of applicants recorded at each stage of your police officer recruitment process. For each stage, please include the numbers who passed, failed or withdrew, where these outcomes are recorded. Please use your own stage names.

2. Demographic breakdowns

For the same three years, please provide the number at each recruitment stage, separately by:
- ethnicity;
- age group; and

- sex.

Please use the categories already held by your force. I am not requesting combinations of characteristics or individual-level data.
Existing small-number suppression may be applied.

3. Early voluntary departure

For officers who started employment in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, please provide the number who voluntarily left within:
- six months;
- 12 months; and
- 24 months.

Please state whether the figures are cumulative. If already recorded, please also provide the reason categories and the number in each category.

4. Existing materials

Please provide copies or links to any realistic job-preview material or existing reports evaluating police officer recruitment, applicant withdrawal or early voluntary departure that are not already published on your website.

If any part of this request repeats information that is already published, please provide the link instead of reproducing it.

If the full request would exceed the cost limit, please provide what can be supplied within the limit in this priority order: Question 1; ethnicity in Question 2; age in Question 2; sex in Question 2; Question 3; Question 4. Please explain what cannot be supplied.

An Excel or CSV file would be helpful where available.

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 each recruitment record as the information requested is not a searchable field in our Applicant Tracking System (ATS). 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.