GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Date: 21/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017677/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017677/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. The number of recorded crimes committed at pharmacies, for 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 1 January 2026 to 17 September 2026.

2. For each of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 1 January 2026 to 17 September 2026, a breakdown of those crimes by offence type (e.g. theft/shoplifting, burglary, robbery, criminal damage, arson, possession of weapons, sexual offences, vehicle offences, assault, public order offences).

3. For each of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 1 January 2026 to 17 September 2026, the number of those crimes classified as violent crime.

4. For each of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 1 January 2026 to 17 September 2026, the number of crimes at pharmacies specifically involving theft of, or attempted theft of, controlled drugs or damage to controlled drugs storage (e.g. CD cabinets).

5. For each of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 1 January 2026 to 17 September 2026, a breakdown of weapons or objects used in crimes committed at pharmacies.

6. For each of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 1 January 2026 to 17 September 2026, the outcome of crimes committed at pharmacies, broken down by: no suspect identified, no further action, caution given, charged, other outcome.

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 would be unable to respond this FOI in full without carrying out a review manually for questions 4 and 5. Our system do not allow for the easy extraction of which items, weapons or objects have been used in crimes and so this information can only be obtained from trawling through all the relevant records. Results have revealed almost 4000 records located using keyword filters and so to provide a response in full would exceed the 18hr limit.

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 the removal of questions 4 and 5, or to narrow the time frame significantly. Any revised request should also be worded to ask for the MO Keyword "Chemist" and "Pharmacist" for a more accurate picture. However, 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.

Question 1.

Caveats.
In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/01/2022 and 17/09/2026 where 'Chemist' or 'Pharmacist' are included as MO keywords, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

MO keywords are only available for **new and migrated crimes**.

The MO keywords are not mandatory and may not be completed.

- There may be relevant records missing from our response where this field has not been completed.
- As these are optional fields, an increase or decrease in crime volume where these fields are part of the filtering may not indicate a true increase or decrease of the volume of these crimes but may reflect a change in usage of this field.

The number of recorded crimes where the location is a chemist/pharmacy during the requested timeframe and where the above caveats apply are **1,523.**