GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Tuesday, 29 September 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017714/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017714/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/09/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information relating to reports of sexual offences occurring on trains within your policing area.
Please provide the following information for the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26:

1. *The total number of reported sexual offences recorded as having taken place on board a train*
2. *A breakdown of these offences by offence type, where available, including:*
   - *Sexual assault*
   - *Sexual assault by penetration*
   - *Rape*
   - *Indecent exposure*
   - *Sexual harassment*
   - *Other sexual offences*
3. *Where available, please provide the number of offences involving:*
   - *A passenger being sexually assaulted by another passenger*
   - *A passenger being sexually assaulted by a member of railway staff*
   - *A passenger being sexually assaulted by another person known to them*
   - *An offender whose relationship to the victim was unknown*
4. *Please provide the number of recorded offences that resulted in:*
   - *An arrest*
   - *A charge*
   - *No further action*
   - *An ongoing investigation*

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Our system does not feature automated tools to extract offences having taken place on board a train. Consequently, retrieving the requested information will require a manual review of our records.

From initial searches carried out for all three years there are 332 crimes where the word 'train' is contained in the MO text, however we would need to conduct a manual review of these as that has also brought back words such as 'restrained', 'trainers' etc. In addition, we would also have to conduct a manual search for the breakdown of victim relationship for Part 3 so that would add additional time onto how long it would take to complete this request. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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. This request may possibly be better directed to British Transport Police, as they may hold more detailed records on offence location and could just be able to filter to train rather than conducting a manual search. We do not know how they hold the data but it might worth checking with them. As for GMP the only method to gather all the requested information is manual reviews on each crime.