GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Wednesday, 14 October 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017816/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017816/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/10/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *For each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 2018/19 to 2025/26 inclusive, please provide the number of crimes recorded by your force where the location of the offence was a community pharmacy. By 'community pharmacy' I mean a retail pharmacy or chemist premises dispensing NHS prescriptions in the community (e.g. high-street, village and health-centre pharmacies), excluding hospital pharmacies.*

2. *For each year, please state how many of these crimes had each Home Office outcome type recorded (e.g. charged/summonsed, out-of-court disposal, evidential difficulties, investigation complete, no suspect identified).*

3. *Please also break the figures down by the following offence categories, using Home Office offence classifications:*
   - *Shoplifting*
   - *Other theft (including theft from the person and theft by employee) Burglary (business and community) Robbery Violence against the person, split into (a) with injury and (b) without injury Stalking and harassment Public order offences Criminal damage and arson Drug offences Possession of weapons Fraud and forgery, where recorded by your force, including forged prescriptions All other offences*

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 *'community pharmacy'* data. We can search for crimes created between 01 Apr 2018 and 31 March 2026 where the MO keyword sub-category 'chemist' is ticked, however this won't identify whether the location is within a hospital to exclude for requested data. From initial searches carried out a total of 1.7k records would need to be manually reviewed. 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 on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, we can provide the data where the MO keyword sub-category 'chemist' is ticked. However, the MO keywords is an optional field, it does not need to be completed when a crime is created. Consequently, it is possible that there will be crimes that occurred in chemist will be missed from this search using this method. We are happy to proceed this way, if you are happy to proceed knowing the limitations of this field.

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.