GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Wednesday, 14 October 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017824/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017824/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/10/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many missing people have been reported/logged, broken down by each year, for the past five years? Please could you split into children 17 and under and adults 18 and over.*
2. *How many missing people reports do you get on average every day, broken down by each year?*
3. *For each year and each age category, how many of these missing people have since been found?*
4. *How much time did it take to find these people (e.g. under one week, under one month, under 6 months, under a year etc. - or whichever metric you use)? Broken down by each year.*
5. *How much money has been spent on finding/supporting missing people broken down by each of these years from 2021-present.*

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 Part 4 data as the duration of an individual missing episode is not a searchable field. Consequently, retrieving the requested information will require a manual review of all relevant records. From initial searches carried out a total of 150,326 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.

Although this removes GMP's obligations under the Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request please see below.

Parts 1 & 2

YEAR	17 AND UNDER	18 AND OVER	AGE NOT KNOWN	TOTAL	DAILY AVERAGE **
2021	13,782	17,380	133	31,295	85.7
2022	15,273	17,362	159	32,794	89.8
2023	15,647	15,012	77	30,736	84.2
2024	15436	15049	36	30,521	83.6
2025	14126	10,837	17	24,980	68.4

** Missing has an element of seasonality, and the numbers will rise thru the summer months, and decline in the winter months. This should be taken into account when looking at a daily average **

Part 3

YEAR	17 AND UNDER – FOUND	18 AND OVER – FOUND
2021	13782	17,362
2022	15,255	17,326
2023	15,642	14,993
2024	14,435	15,037
2025	14,112	10,815

Part 5 – No information held

In accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce Part 4 of the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit as the only method to collate the data is reviewing the record individually.