Information Management & Data Directorate (IMDD)
Information Access Unit

Date: 20th October 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017790/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017790/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Thank you for your response and for explaining the difficulties involved in retrieving the information.
I appreciate that Questions 3a and the associated reason-for-stop information would require a substantial manual review of records across separate systems. I am happy to remove those elements of the request.

However, I would be grateful if GMP could consider the remainder of the request separately, as I do not believe all of the information requested would require the extensive manual review described in your refusal notice.

In particular, I would still like to request the following for December 2024 and December 2025:
1. The total number of motorists given a roadside breath test.
2. The total number of roadside breath tests which produced a positive result for alcohol.
3. The total number of people arrested for a drink-driving offence.
4. The number of drink-driving arrests by the time of the initial roadside stop/breath test, where recorded, broken down into:
- ***00:00–05:59***
- ***06:00–11:59***
- ***12:00–17:59***
- ***18:00–23:59***

5. For the morning-after period, the number of motorists stopped and given a roadside breath test between 06:00 and 11:59 who produced a positive result for alcohol, if recorded.
6. The number of motorists stopped and given a roadside breath test between 06:00 and 11:59 who were subsequently arrested for a drink-driving offence, if recorded.
I am also happy to remove the request for the reason for stop and the requirement to link individual arrests to particular types of stop.
Could you therefore please confirm whether this revised request can be processed without the substantial manual review referred to in your refusal notice?

If any individual element would still exceed the appropriate limit, I would be grateful if you could identify that element specifically and provide the remaining information where possible. Many thanks for your help.

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 determine if a positive breath test occurred between 06:00 and 11:59 we would need to conduct a manual review of all positive test records. From an initial search 534 positive breath tests would need to be manually reviewed. At an estimate of 5 minutes per record would take in excess of 44.5 hours to provide a response to question 5.

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.

Section 16(1) – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce question 5 in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit.

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 exceed (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 and 2

Month-Year	Question 1	Question 2
December 2024	2,761	321 including refusals
December 2025	2,299	213 including refusals

Question 3

Month -Year	Total Arrests
December 2024	262
December 2025	249

Question 4

GMP cannot provided the number of arrests by the time of the initial roadside stop/breath test as the information is recorded on separate systems. We cannot determine if an arrest occurred after a positive breath test.

The data below is the number of arrests for drink driving offences broken down by time of arrest.

Time of Arrest	December 2024	December 2025
00:00 – 05:59	123	123
06:00 – 11:59	19	15
12:00 – 17:59	30	29
18:00 – 23:59	90	82

Question 6

Please see response for question 4.