Date: 12/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017799/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017799/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide the following information for each of the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26:
1. The total number of missing person incidents involving children aged 17 or under recorded by your force.
2. Of those missing person incidents involving children aged 17 or under, the number where a child sexual exploitation (CSE) marker, flag or equivalent vulnerability marker was recorded against the missing person incident.
Please provide the figures broken down by financial year.
I am seeking aggregate figures only and am not requesting any personal data or information that could identify individual children.
If your force does not use a specific CSE marker, please provide the equivalent figure using the closest relevant category or marker available in your systems, and please specify the category used.

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.

For a response in full for this FOI, GMP would be required to carry out a full scale review manually of over 13,000-14,000 per year due to how the information you have asked for is recorded. Not all Flags and markers are searchable within our systems, and so this would be the only route to obtain the information for question 2.

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 to remove question 2 in full. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

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.

Financial Year	Missing reports for u18's
21/22	11508
22/23	14621
23/24	14733
24/25	13887
25/26	13694