



Date: 21/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017251/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017251/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide the number of recorded offences for the period 6 April 2025 to 5 April 2026 within your police force area for the following categories:

- Offences involving a knife or sharp instrument.
- Offences involving a firearm.
- Other offences involving weapons.
- Assault offences, including common assault, Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), assault occasioning grievous bodily harm, and assault on emergency workers (where recorded).
- Threats to kill and other offences relating to threats of violence.
- Terrorism-related offences recorded by your force.

Where possible, I would be grateful if the information could be provided as:

- A monthly breakdown of recorded offences.
- The total number of offences for each category during the requested period.
- The data in an electronic format such as Excel or CSV.

If any of the requested categories are not recorded in the format described, please provide the closest equivalent data that your force holds and explain how those offences are classified.

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information in relation to terrorism-related offences within your specified time range.

The duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply for this part of your request, by virtue of the following exemptions: **Section 24(2) – National Security** and **Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement**.

Both Sections 24 and 31 are qualified exemptions. There is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused by confirming or denying the existence of information, as well as to conduct a public interest test.

HARM

Confirming or denying whether GMP holds any information relevant to this request would risk providing an advantage to individuals seeking to undermine policing strategies, particularly those designed to safeguard national security. Disclosure under FOIA constitutes a release to the public at large; therefore, any acknowledgement of information held could be misused, potentially compromising sensitive operations. Furthermore, confirmation or denial could, through process of elimination, assist those intent on disrupting police activity by enabling them to infer whether specific individuals have been subject to investigative tactics or surveillance.

Any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be exploited by terrorists, extremists, or criminal organisations. Whether information is or is not held, disclosure would adversely affect public safety and compromise both national security and law enforcement.

Confirming or denying the existence of information would be highly advantageous to individuals engaged in terrorist activity, as it could reveal which persons or organisations are subject to police monitoring, allowing them to infer whether they have evaded detection. Such disclosure could also facilitate “mosaic requests,” enabling malicious actors to piece together a broader picture of law enforcement interest and surveillance targets. Ultimately, this would undermine the effectiveness of police operations and compromise the ability to protect national security.

The prevention and detection of crime is fundamental to policing, and the threat from terrorism remains significant. The UK faces an ongoing risk from violent extremists, with the current national threat level set at “substantial”, meaning a terrorist attack is likely. In light of these circumstances, confirming or denying whether GMP holds any relevant information would be counterproductive to safeguarding national security and could increase the risk of crime if a consistent Neither Confirm nor Deny approach is not maintained.

Disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act are considered a release to the world; once published, GMP has no control over how, or by whom, the information is used. While the applicant’s motives are not questioned, such information could assist those seeking to disrupt police investigations by enabling them to identify the level of policing activity and tactics employed. This could necessitate a full review of police methods, increasing costs to the public purse. These investigative tools have been tried and tested over many years and remain largely unchanged.

Confirming or denying whether information is held may therefore compromise the efficiency of policing services and our duty of care to the public, as well as negatively impact ongoing investigations.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S24 - Confirming or denying whether the requested information is held could promote transparency regarding national security arrangements. It would allow the public to understand how resources are allocated and provide reassurance that appropriate measures are in place to protect the country. This openness could strengthen public confidence in the effectiveness of security strategies.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S24 - Disclosure of any policing arrangements of this nature would render security measures less effective. Confirming or denying the existence of information could compromise ongoing or future operations designed to protect the UK's infrastructure and public safety. This would increase the risk of harm to the public and necessitate a full review of security measures, incurring additional costs to the public purse.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S31 - Confirming or denying whether GMP holds the requested information could demonstrate accountability and openness in policing operations. It would reinforce public confidence in the police service and its commitment to transparency, ensuring that the public understands how law enforcement engages with its responsibilities and allocates resources.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S31 - Confirming or denying whether GMP holds records relating to terrorism offences could compromise law enforcement tactics, hindering the prevention and detection of crime. Many policing strategies are reused and have previously been observed by criminal groups, fixated individuals, and terrorist organisations. Exposure of these methods would necessitate costly revisions and weaken operational effectiveness. Criminal groups could exploit disclosed information, directly impacting GMP resources and public safety. Furthermore, disclosure risks undermining collaborative law enforcement efforts, which are essential for managing complex and sensitive investigations.

Overall Balance Test

The security of the country is paramount. GMP will not confirm or deny whether information is held if doing so would undermine national security, law enforcement functions, or investigative processes. While transparency is important, the public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police operations and investigations in this sensitive area is significantly stronger.

Confirming or denying the existence of information could enable interested parties to gain insight into investigative strategies, jeopardising operations and potentially causing harm. Any disclosure that risks prejudicing law enforcement is therefore not in the public interest.

Accordingly, after weighing the competing interests, confirmation or denial of whether GMP holds information relating to this request would not be in the public interest. This should not be taken as indicating whether such information exists.

GMP can confirm that information related to the non-terrorism part of your request is held. Please see the attached spreadsheet for this information.

CAVEATS

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes, including knife crimes defined by the ADR 160, with a created date between 06/04/2025 and 05/04/2026, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB