



Date: 20/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017298/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017298/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Freedom of Information Request – Police Officer Sickness Absence by Age, 2025

Please provide the following information relating to police officers only for the calendar year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

I am seeking data for each of the following age groups:

- 25 years and under
- 26–40 years
- 41–55 years
- Over 55 years

1. Police officer headcount by age group

Please provide a separate police officer headcount for each of the four age groups listed above.

If readily available, please provide the average officer headcount during calendar year 2025 for each age group.

If average headcount is not readily available, please instead provide the officer headcount as at 31 December 2025, or the nearest standard workforce snapshot date available, stating the date used.

2. Working days lost to sickness absence by age group

Please provide the total number of working days lost to sickness absence during calendar year 2025, broken down separately by each of the four age groups listed above.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am requesting a separate total of working days or shifts lost to sickness for each age group, rather than a single force-wide total.

I am seeking working days or shifts actually lost due to sickness absence, rather than the number of sickness absence episodes or calendar days spanning periods of absence.

Alternative age bands

If the specified age bands cannot readily be provided from existing systems, please provide both the officer headcount and sickness absence information using the closest age bands routinely held or reportable by the force, ensuring that the same age bands are used for both datasets.

I would prefer the information in existing reportable age bands rather than requiring bespoke calculations or data manipulation solely to match the requested age groups.

If any part of the requested information is already publicly available, please provide a link or reference to the relevant published dataset or disclosure.

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.

1. GMP do not hold average headcounts for a year. The figures provided below are the force strength as of 31st December 2025. Figures exclude officers on career breaks or external secondments.

Age Band	Headcount
Under 20	88
20-29	2388
30-39	2117
40-49	2289
50-59	1069
60+	25
Grand Total	7976

2. GMP do not hold reporting on average headcounts by calendar year. The figures provided below are from the force sickness records as of 31st December 2025, rolling 12-month data from 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025. The figures represent Police Officer estimated working day lost. Figures to nearest day - this is the closest approximation we have to actual shifts days lost. We have used our standard internal convention when calculating these figures.

Age Band	Estimated Working Days Lost
Under 20	168
20-29	24570
30-39	29960
40-49	33592
50-59	27429
60+	779
Grand Total	116498