



Date: 01/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017358/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017358/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025:

- 1. Total number of people brought to a police custody suite where the custody officer considered whether to authorise detention under s.37(3) Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.*
- 2. Of those in Q1, the number where detention was NOT authorised by the custody officer under s.37(3) PACE 1984. Please provide this as a total per year.*
- 3. For those in Q2, a breakdown of the top 5 reasons recorded by the custody officer for refusing to authorise detention. If you record this in categories, please provide the categories and numbers. If free text, please provide the 5 most common reasons.*
- 4. Of those in Q2, the number released with NFA, Released Under Investigation, or Charged/BAILED at the station instead.*

Clarifications:

By "brought to custody" I mean any person physically delivered to a custody suite, regardless of eventual outcome.

Please provide data in an Excel/CSV format if possible. If providing this information would exceed the cost limit, please provide Q2 only for the 3 years, as this is my priority.

If you do not hold this information centrally, please advise where it is recorded and provide guidance on how it could be extracted from custody records.

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 provide the data requested would require a manual review of all arrest records to establish whether S34 of PACE was considered. A further manual review would be needed to establish the reasons for refused detention.

A search of our custody records shows that there are 114,760 arrest records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 12,000 hours to ascertain the data required. Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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. For the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.