

Wednesday, 19 August 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017378/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017378/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Thank you for your response to my FOI request (reference 01/FOI/26/017287/Y) and for providing the breakdown of recorded communication methods for arrests under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 between 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2025.

I appreciate the information provided. I would like to ask whether it would be possible to provide a further breakdown of the same dataset by the recorded arrest reason/offence description used for the Section 1 Malicious Communications Act 1988 arrests during this period.

Specifically, could you please provide the number of arrests recorded under each of the following categories, where these descriptions (or equivalent descriptions) are held within your systems:

- "Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature"*
- "Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message"*
- "Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message"*
- Any other equivalent recorded arrest reason descriptions used for offences under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

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. Any data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are

progressed and/or updated.

The search conducted using the below parameters:

- Arrest dates between 31/12/2024 – 31/12/2025.
- Offence code MT88 007 – S1 Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Manual reviews were carried out for the 'Final Crime Classification' of the crime
- Although suspects may have been arrested for Malicious Communications, the crime may have been re-classified once the crime reported was investigated.

Data

Final Crime Classification	Count
Send communication threatening death or serious harm	4
Send indecent or grossly offensive communication to cause distress or anxiety	6
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety	3
Stalking involving fear of violence	1
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	1