

Date: 01/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017511/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017511/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for your Force, for each of the last three financial years (2023/24–2025/26):

- 1. Number of incidents where alcohol was recorded as a primary factor (i.e. directly caused the incident, e.g. drunk and disorderly, alcohol-related assault), and number where it was a secondary/contributing factor (e.g. noted as present in a domestic incident, ASB, or road traffic incident where it wasn't the primary offence).***
- 2. The same primary/secondary breakdown for illicit drugs and, where distinguishable, misused prescription medication.***
- 3. Of the incidents at points 1–2, the number that resulted in an arrest.***
- 4. What system/field captures this (e.g. incident markers, qualifier codes, free-text logs) — and if points 1–2 aren't held in that exact form, please instead provide incident counts for the closest matching incident/qualifier codes (e.g. alcohol-related, drug-related, intoxicated person).***

If this exceeds the section 12 cost limit, please advise which part is causing that so I can narrow the request.

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 the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to this request. There is an alcohol flag GMP can use, however this identifies crimes where alcohol has been associated with the offence. This, however, does not advise about whether alcohol was a primary or secondary factor. To understand this, GMP would be required

to carry out a full review of each if the results located to extract this information. Within the date-range specified, there are 92k records and the same review would be required for drug related and for these we have located 68K records. This FOI r=would exceed 18hrs to provide a response for these reasons.

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 with a reduced time frame. 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.

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