

Friday, 11 September 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017561/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017561/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Clarification

Just to clarify the below, rather than searching specifically in the offence codes 8605 and 8612, please make a wider search under Home Office category "86 Obscene Publications". I understand there are additional offence codes under which offences involving strangulation-related content could be recorded.

Initial Request

For the last five calendar years (2021 - 2025) and for 2026 to date (1 Jan - 31 Aug), please provide the following information in relation to offences recorded under offence codes 8605 and 8612 (possession of extreme pornographic images).

To identify relevant records, please search any MO text, occurrence summary, crime summary, investigation log, or equivalent free-text field for the terms:

- *strangulation*
- *strangling*
- *strangle*
- *strangled*
- *choking*
- *choked*
- *choke*
- *chokehold*
- *suffocation*
- *suffocating*
- *suffocate*
- *suffocated*
- *asphyxiation*

For records identified by that search, please provide:

- 1. The number of matching offences by year;*
- 2. The number that resulted in:*
 - a. an arrest; and*
 - b. a charge.*

For the cases recorded in 2026, please provide an anonymised summary of the incident.

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.

- The data provided is for the timeframe 01/01/2021 to 31/08/2026.
- For details of the Offence Codes included in the search please refer to the 'Offence Codes' below.

Home Office code	Offence category	Offence	Act
086/01	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possessing obscene material for gain	Obscene Publications Act 1959 Sec 2 as amended by the Obscene Publications Act 1964 Sec 1
086/02	86 Obscene Publications etc	Take/ make / distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children	Protection of Children Act 1978 Secs 1 & 6 as amended by the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 Sec 84 and Sexual Offences Act 2003
086/03	86 Obscene Publications etc	Indecent matter publicly displayed	Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981 Secs 1 & 5
086/04	86 Obscene Publications etc	Supplying video recording of unclassified work.	Video Recordings Act 1984 Sec 9 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sec 88(2)

086/05	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possess video recording of unclassified work for the purpose of supply	Video Recordings Act 1984 Sec 10 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sec 88(3)
086/06	86 Obscene Publications etc	Defendant has protected material, or copy of it, in possession otherwise than while inspecting it etc	Sexual Offences (Protected Material) Act 1997 Sec 8(1)(a)
086/07	86 Obscene Publications etc	Defendant gives, or reveals, protected material, or copy of it, to any other person	Sexual Offences (Protected Material) Act 1997 Sec 8(1)(b)
086/08	86 Obscene Publications etc	Person who has been given, or shown protected material, gives a copy or otherwise to any person other than the defendant	Sexual Offences (Protected Material) Act 1997 Sec 8(2)(a)
086/09	86 Obscene Publications etc	Person who has been given, or shown, protected material, gives a copy or otherwise to the defendant when not supposed to	Sexual Offences (Protected Material) Act 1997 Sec 8(2)(b)
086/10	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child	Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 160 amended by Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000 Sec 38
086/11	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possession of extreme pornographic images - an act which threatens a person's life	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
086/12	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possession of extreme pornographic images - an act which results, or is likely to result, in serious injury to a person's anus, breasts or genitals.	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
086/13	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possession of extreme pornographic images - an act which involves sexual interference with a human corpse (necrophilia)	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
086/14	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possession of extreme pornographic image - a person performing an act of	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

		intercourse or oral sex with an animal (whether dead or alive) (bestiality)	
086/15	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possessing prohibited images of children	Coroners and Criminal Justice Act 2009 Sec 62(1) & 66(2)
086/16	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possess an extreme image portraying rape	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 Sec 63 (1) 7 (a) (b) and 67 (2)
086/17	86 Obscene Publications etc	Possess an extreme image portraying sexual assault by penetration	Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 Sec 63 (1) 7 (a) (b) and 67 (2)

- Where possible Duplicates have been removed.
- The data is based on the date the crime was recorded and not when the incident occurred.
- The following keywords were searched to establish if the criteria was met - 'Strang' (to capture strangulation, strangling, strangle, strangled), 'Choke' (to capture choke and choked), 'Suffocat' (to capture suffocate, suffocation, suffocating and suffocated) and 'Asphyxiation'.
- A manual review was then conducted of the above results to remove records with references to things such as 'Stranger' and 'Strangeways'.
- Charge data includes Charges and Charges with alternative offence outcomes only.
- Arrest data includes manual reviews on the resulted crimes to locate custody records.
- The data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.

Due to the low result returned, annual breakdown and 2026 information is exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

I have provided the total data for 2021 – 2025 below.

Data for 2021 – 2025

Total Crime – 5

Arrest – 4

Charge – 0