

Thursday, 17 September 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017574/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017574/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/09/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

The number of arrests made for each major offence type per financial year, by the birth country of the person arrested.

Please apply the methodology for counting arrests and categorising offences used in the Home Office Accredited Official Statistics: Stop and search, arrests and mental health detentions, England and Wales, March 2025. See Police powers and procedures: Stop and search, arrests and mental health detentions, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2025, Section 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/stop-and-search-arrests-and-mental-health-detentions-march-2025>

- 1) Count one arrest for each occasion a person is arrested and record the offence with the highest maximum penalty, provided that the offences are not linked. This is aligned with the methodology outlined in Section 3 (3.1); please acknowledge where exceptions apply.*
- 2) Please use the offence types: criminal damage and arson, drug offences, fraud offences, miscellaneous crimes against society, possession of weapons offences, public order offences, robbery, sexual offences, theft offences, violence against the person, and total offences (sum of the ten offence types). This is aligned with the methodology outlined in Section 3 (3.4); please acknowledge where exceptions apply.*
- 3) Please add the offence type "shoplifting". Please note that shoplifting should be shown as its own category; however, the number of theft offences should still include shoplifting offences, and shoplifting offences should not be added again to total offences.*
- 4) Please provide data for financial years ending March 2020, March 2021, March 2022, March 2023, March 2024, March 2025, and March 2026.*
- 5) Please included the most detailed breakdown of country of birth recorded by the force.*

Please note:

- *Please provide details about where and how birth country is recorded, including the system it is recorded on, the level of detail recorded, and whether data collection is mandatory.*
- *Please provide data for when the birth country is “unknown”/ “not recorded”, and please provide a precise definition of these classifications.*

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.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

From the instance on Part 1, our system does not feature automated tools to extract this data. Consequently, retrieving to ascertain the highest penalty offence will require a manual review of all arrest records. From initial searches carried out in 2025 alone, there were 70,351 arrests would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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 keep this within the fees limit, you should remove Part 1. For other Parts, arrests are recorded and categorised differently than recorded crimes. Breakdown data on specific offence categories may require a manual search of all arrest records. To prevent another S12, we suggest accepting the data in its native system format. 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.