

Date: 10th September 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017592/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017592/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*Thank you for your updated response and advice on what may be possible.
As mentioned, I am very keen to stay within your effort threshold for FOIs. As such I have clarified my request, which is not for individual searches (which I understand number in the thousands) but just the authorisations that led to the searches, which hopefully number in the dozens/hundreds? An example would be:*

*Reason the section 60 authorised: Stabbing on XX road
Period: Feb 12th 2025 8.00am – Feb 13th 2024 5pm
Area: Postcodes XXXX, XXXX, XXXX and XXXX*

I do not need any information on individual searches conducted during the authorisation period. Do let me know if I have misunderstood however – for the moment I have clarified/modified my request:

Updated request

Is it possible to have a list of all the Section 60 authorisations (i.e. not individual searches, and no detail on 60AAs required) that occurred in the period Jan 1st 2024 – Dec 31st 2025 (2 years). Can you list them by:

- Reason (e.g. riot, parade, violent crime committed, crime anticipated)
- Period of occurrence (date/time to and from)
- Area in Greater Manchester covered (using where possible standard definitions like ward or MSOA or local authority or borough, OR a description of the streets or boundaries used)

Fingers crossed, but do let me know if this is improved from an effort perspective for the data team. Otherwise if not, I will consider other reductions in the information required.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information as an exemption applies.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the populace better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A Public Authority is able to refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business, or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services. This is particularly relevant at this time due to the ongoing demand on GMP's FOI unit.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicators apply to your request:

Burden on the Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information.

The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such the request for the reason for the stop and search is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

The grounds field (which would provide the reason) relating to stop and searches is a free text field. To provide the grounds for the stop and search would involve manual redactions to each individual record as they do contain sensitive and personal information which could identify directly/indirectly a living human therefore Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data. In addition, due to some entries containing a higher level of information regarding the stop and search Section 31(1)(g) by virtue of 2(b) is engaged.

The number of stop and search records is 4,635 therefore at a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to review and redact each grounds field, it would take approximately 386 hours to ascertain the data required.

For this reason, any further requests of this nature will be refused under Section 14(1) of the Act, which states that requests that are considered to be vexatious do not have to be complied with.

However, please see the attached spreadsheet for the remaining data.

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 supplied contains records for searches in relation to Section 60 between 01/01/2021 and 31/12/2025, as previously requested.

'Object' has been provided to replace grounds/reason.