

Date: 17/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017617/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017617/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding alcoholic drinks seized, retained or otherwise held by your force.

Please provide the following information, where recorded, for each financial year from 2021/22 to 2025/26, and for 2026/27 to the most recent available date:

- 1. The number of bottles, containers or separately recorded items of alcoholic drink seized or taken into police possession.***
- 2. Where possible, a breakdown by drinks category***
- 3. The recorded estimated, retail, replacement or evidential value of those alcoholic drinks currently held, if such a valuation exists.***
- 4. The force's policy or standard procedure for alcoholic drinks once they are no longer required as evidence or property.***

If answering any element of this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please provide the remaining information that can be supplied within the limit and advise how the request could be refined.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

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

To provide a response to questions 1 and 2 of this FOI would require a manual review of over 350 records. Our systems do not individually record each seizure by amounts and so each record can have multiple items, for example, one record may hold 6 bottles of alcohol, and another may have 1 can of beer. The description is how the officer logged the evidence based on their own words. For this reason, we cannot easily extract the data for Q1 and 2. At a conservative rate of 5minutes to review each log, I anticipate this request would take in the region of 29hrs to locate 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 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 3.

No information held.

Question 4.

The forces policy/procedure is normally to disposal of alcohol once it is no longer required as evidence.

On occasions we may decide to send this to auction if we can confirm it authenticity/history, it is within its sell by date and also providing that the relevant licensing law is observed.