

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017622/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017622/T

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

I would be grateful if you could provide data for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 August 2026 relating to the following offences:

- a) Encouraging or assisting serious self-harm, as introduced by the Online Safety Act 2023.*
- b) Section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 (encouraging or assisting suicide).*

Requested Information

For each of the above offences, please provide annual figures for the period specified, broken down by:

- 1. Number of individuals cautioned*
- 2. Number of individuals charged*
- 3. Number of individuals prosecuted (i.e., cases brought before a court)*
- 4. Number of convictions secured (if held by your organisation)*

Demographic Breakdown

Where available, please also provide demographic information for both victims and suspected perpetrators, broken down as follows:

Victims

- Gender*
- Age (either exact age or age bands, depending on what is held)*

Perpetrators / Suspects

- Gender*
- Age (either exact age or age bands)*

If demographic data is not held for all stages (e.g., cautions vs. prosecutions), please provide it for any stage where it is recorded.

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 some of the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

GMP do not hold prosecution and conviction data as this is held by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Please apply directly to HMCTS for such data.

Please see the remainder of the information below.

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 dates used for the data collection are 01/01/2018 to 31/08/2026. All data is displayed by calendar year with the exception of 2026, which is 01/01/2026 to 31/08/2026.
- The data is based on the crime creation date and not when the incident occurred.
- Full details of the HO Codes included can be found in the below table.

Class	Offence Category	Offence	Full HO Code
Miscellaneous crimes against society	76 Aiding Suicide	Intentionally doing an act capable of encouraging or assisting the suicide or attempted suicide of another	076/01
	5E	Encouraging or assisting serious self-harm	005/30

- The crime volume is equal to the victim volumes as 1 x crime per victim is recorded. However, there could be multiple suspects connected to this.
- 'Missing Value' or 'Unknown' means that this field hasn't been populated on our operating systems.
- The data provided for this request is subject to change as crimes are progressed and/or updated.
- Management of Police Information regulations state that non-essential records should be removed from police systems six financial years after the year in which they were originally created. This means that data that is more than six financial years old may be incomplete and should not be compared to more recent data

Data

The information listed below has been 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.

- Crime counts between 1 and 4 - marked 'X'
- Age of victims and suspects
- Gender for 076/01 due to low return results

Crime count	076/01	005/30
2018	X	0
2019	X	0
2020	8	0
2021	X	0
2022	5	0
2023	5	0
2024	5	21
2025	5	70
2026	12	53

Number of individuals cautioned – zero

Number of individuals charged – Less than 5 in 2025 and zero for other years

005/30	Female Victim	Male Victim	Missing/ Unknown Victim	Female Suspect	Male Suspect	Missing/ Unknown Suspect
2018	No code specific to this classification prior to 2024					
2019						
2020						
2021						
2022						
2023						
2024	14	6	1	7	5	9
2025	50	18	2	19	30	26
2026	31	18	4	16	20	18