



Chief Superintendent Phil Davies
Director of Information
GMP HQ
Central Park
Manchester
M40 5BP

22nd December 2020
phil.davies@gmp.police.uk

Ref: FOI response GSA 1150/20

Professor Barnie Choudhury
MD, Sensei Creative Productions
barniechoudhury@hotmail.com

Dear Professor Choudhury,

Thank you for making contact about your ongoing Freedom of Information request, I am genuinely sorry we have not been able to complete your submission in good time. I am the newly appointed Director of Information for Greater Manchester Police and one of my first strategic objectives is to support our Information Management team in recovering an administration backlog brought on through our organisation's response to Covid-19, and improve processes for delivery of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. This position is known by the Information Commissioner's Office. In addition, as a service we have also been undertaking significant organisational changes with technology recently to replace legacy systems, and this has created some complexity in our data reporting position as we have transformed.

Greater Manchester Police is committed to building public trust and confidence in policing by being open and transparent. Where possible we will disclose the relevant information requested via the Freedom of Information Act, however there are many factors that must be taken into account when determining whether it would be appropriate for us to respond to a request. This includes length of time and resources needed to obtain the information. Where the data held by GMP is not held in the format sought by the requester or it would take the Force over the 18-hour time limit to complete the request, we do provide advice on how the request can be altered in order to meet the threshold – in this case to reduce the data requested to be within a shorter time period. My team were following the appropriate Information Commissioner's Office guidance in responding to your initial request. I can confirm that GMP does map and analyse drug arrest data, and has an awareness of drug activity in our communities, but there are opportunities to improve the access to this data.

On review of your application, which has the benefit of additional information provided by yourself on your objectives for the data, I have determined that GMP should support the work of the Eastern Eye publication and its highlighting of societal inequality beyond the minimum requirements of Freedom of Information. There are opportunities here to provide the majority of

your request with some small revisions and support our own objectives for understanding disproportionality.

Your original request, as I have it on record is the following:

“Please would you let me know how many arrests were made by Greater Manchester Police for drug and drug related offences between 1 Jan-31 Dec 2018, 1 Jan-31 Dec 2019 and 1 Jan-31 March 2020?

I would like the figures broken down into:

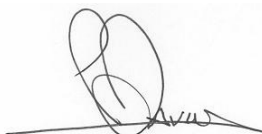
1. *age group e.g. 0-10; 11-17; 18-30; 31-50; 51-70; over 70s or whichever way your service breaks down the age groups.*
2. *gender.*
3. *racial/ethnicity of suspects e.g. white; Asian; African-Caribbean or whichever way your service breaks down the racial/ethnic groups.*
4. *The class of drug.*
5. *An overall estimate street value of the drugs seized or whichever way you record the value of seizures.*
6. *I would also like to know how many ended up being charged and sent to court as a result of your investigations and how many were resolved without court action.”*

I can confirm that our analysts can work on producing responses to 1,2,3 and 6 by the first week of January, following a workshop to identify alternative query methods. I would recommend this includes voluntary attendance data as well as arrest data given changes in necessity to arrest under Code G of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act. Items 4 and 5 are more challenging at this time for our analysts but enquiries are being made with crime specialists on how feasible it is to comply with your request in the near future.

I would also like to invite you to a virtual workshop with some key people within the organisation to establish how this insight could support our work on disproportionality in criminal justice in the future, and how our datasets can evolve to provide the insight to tackle this issue. Our Corporate Communications Team would also be interested in building a working relationship with Eastern Eye. If you are interested in making a connection my contact details are within this letter.

I apologise for the delay in your application, it has been an unprecedented time for us all, and I am hopeful we can forge a more productive relationship going forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Davies', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chief Superintendent Phil Davies
Director of Information