

**Information Governance Unit  
Information Management Branch**

17 December 2008

Dear XXXX,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/11/2008, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 19/11/2008. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) Could you please tell me how many serving police officers have retired under the forces 30 year pension scheme from April 1, 2007 to April 1, 2008. If the figures are not available for those periods then the figures for April 1, 2006 to April 1, 2007.
- 2) Could you please tell me of those officers, how many are still employed by your force in a civilian role.
- 3) Of those officers still employed in a civilian role, can you tell me when their retirement date was as an officer and when their start date was as a civilian?
- 4) Is it possible to provide the range of salary brackets relating to civilian staff?
- 5) Can you tell me how much the force pays out in pensions per year? \*

*\* Clarification email sent 19.11.08 regarding periods of request for question (5), for a reply on 26.11.08, however, you failed to reply. Therefore we have provided information for the periods 07/08.*

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.

Result Of Searches

Question 1. For the requested period April 1 2007 and April 1 2008, 174 Police Officers left the force under retirement of the 30 years service rule.

Question 2. As at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008, 48 of the 174 retiring officers are still with the force in Police Staff Member roles. Please note the terminology 'Civilian Staff' has been replaced with 'Police Staff Member'

Question 3. Your request for this information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the retirement date as a Police Officer and start date as a Police Member of staff,

Section 17 of the Freedom Of Information Act requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies s40(2), which is an Absolute exemption and relates to Personal Information that is likely to identify a third party. Personal data is defined under the Data Protection Act 1998 as data that is biographical in nature, has the applicant as its focus and/or affects the data subject's privacy in his or her personal, professional or business life.

One of the differences between the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is that any information disclosed under Freedom of Information, is disclosed into the public domain, not just to the individual requesting the information, as such, disclosure that identifies an individual through disclosing their personal data, even third party personal data is exempted, unless there is a strong public interest in disclosing the information. The public interest is not what interest the public, but what benefits the community as a whole.

Question 4. Please find requested information attached.

Question 5. The total that Greater Manchester Police has paid for the period 07/08 in relation to Police pensions was £95,012,613. Information in relation to Police Staff Member pension is not held by Greater Manchester Police.

To comply with s16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in offering advice and assistance, I can confirm that The Greater Manchester Pension Fund deals with all Police Staff Member pensions.

#### Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact, on telephone number 0161 856 2528 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Team