

**Information Governance Unit
Information Management Branch**

10th November 2008

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/10/2008, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 01/10/2008. I note you seek access to the following information regarding the use of police helicopters in the year 2007-2008:

- How many police helicopters does your force use?
- How many flights have been made by police helicopters in the last year 2007-2008?
- How many of those flights have been directly related to detecting or investigating crime?
- How many complaints have you received from the public relating to the use of police helicopters in the last year 2007-2008? What have been the nature of those complaints e.g. Noise, light, disturbance?
- Are your helicopters ever used for monitoring or detecting speeding offences?
- Do you have any information on the cost of your force using police helicopter(s)?
- What amount of your annual budget is allocated to using, staffing and maintaining your police helicopter(s)?

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Greater Manchester Police uses one helicopter, a MD 902 Explorer. In the last financial year, 2007-2008, there have been 1658 flights made, attending a total of 5022 incidents. Of the total 5022 incidents attended 3274 relate to investigating crime, 970 relate to reducing crime (Hotspot and Proactive patrols) and 105 relate to Promoting public safety (football matches, labour conference and other public order events).

Greater Manchester Police have received three complaints in relation to the force helicopter, all of which have related to noise. These have all been resolved, on contact, with the complainant once they have been made aware of the necessary reasons behind the force's attendance in the area.

Greater Manchester Police do not use the force helicopter for the purpose of monitoring or detecting speeding offences.

The total costs associated with running the force helicopter (including staffing and maintenance) for the 2007/2008 financial year was £1.82m.

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 Amanda Ratcliffe, on telephone number 0161 856 2529 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Information Access Officer