

**Information Management Section
Legal Services**

27th April 2006

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27 March 2006, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 28 March 2006. I note you seek access to the following information:

- **What policy GMP has in relation to off road motorcycles, mini mopeds and unlicensed scooters.**
- **What GMP's stance is in relation to them being driven on the road and off road.**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I have received the following response from Chief Inspector Roberts at Traffic Network Section:

"Traffic Network Section (TNS) of Greater Manchester Police operates within the National Roads Policing Strategy which is agreed between the Association of Chief Police Officers, Department for Transport and the Home Office.

This strategy identifies 5 key priorities namely

- *Deny criminal use of the road network*
- *Reduce killed and serious road casualties*
- *Reduce anti-social behaviour*
- *Increase public reassurance*
- *Prevent terrorism*

The illegal use of motorcycles which includes off road bikes, quad bikes, mini motorbikes etc is anti-social behaviour, it reduces public reassurance when it is seen to go unpunished and is also a factor that could increase the number of killed and serious injuries we have on our roads.

Greater Manchester Against Crime (GMAC) is a partnership between the Police and the agencies who have a statutory responsibility (Local Authorities, Health Authorities etc) to reduce crime and disorder within Greater Manchester. Every 6 months this partnership identifies the strategic priorities for the next 6 months. Anti-social behaviour is a strategic priority and will remain so.

The Roads Policing Strategy and the GMAC strategy set the strategic context which TNS operates and illegal off and on road motorcycling is such a significant concern for communities that we have and will continue to allocate resources to a zero tolerance approach to the problem.

We have increased the number of trained police off road motorcyclists and will shortly be taking delivery of a new fleet of bikes which will increase the available patrol resources.

We are using all the available seizure powers to take machines out of circulation and enforcing all relevant legislation.

This will provide a short term response but in the medium and longer term we will be seeking ASBO's on repeat offenders and working with land managers to secure hotspot areas so bikes cannot access land.

Working with the Greater Manchester Police Authority (GMPA) we are developing a media strategy to discourage the illegal use of motorcycles and also provide a name and shame process for people to report illegal riders or other information.

GMPA is also seeking new legislation that requires that all off road machines be registered much like an on road machine so that regulation will discourage offending and where it continues create new offences of unlicensed bike, fail to notify change of keeper, fail to display a registration plate etc. GMP supports the GMPA in this campaign. Further details are available on the GMPA website: www.gmpa.gov.uk

Illegal off and on road motorcycling is widespread across Greater Manchester with around 2000 complaints being made each month. TNS applies a problem solving approach which identifies hotspots and repeat offenders. We then target these hotspots and offenders.

The recent explosion of sales of mini moto bikes, estimated to be 100,000 machines in the UK, has fuelled the problem.

I hope this information shows how and why GMP is taking this issue seriously ”

Complaint Rights

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

Yours sincerely