

**Information Management Section
Legal Services**

26th January 2006

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated and received by Greater Manchester Police on 25 January 2006 concerning the following information:

- **Names of registered paedophiles in the Manchester area.**

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such 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 why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested is Section 40 – Personal Information, by disclosing the information you have requested this would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The following statement is from our Public Protection Unit:

“It is not our policy other than in exceptional circumstances to confirm or negate whether a person living in the community is or has been ‘suspected’ of committing sexual or other offences, nor whether or not a person is subject to Sex Offender Registration procedures. I can assure you that the protection of the public from violent and sexual offenders is a priority. Over the past few years a number of measures have been introduced to improve this protection, the most recent being the introduction of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements under legislation introduced by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. The Police, Probation Service and other agencies work in partnership to assess and manage risks posed by offenders in the community. These arrangements now include members of the community who have been invited to oversee the work being done.

Disclosure of information in relation to this work is a complex issue. The decision to disclose information of a highly sensitive nature to a third party will always need to be justified thoroughly. Such a decision will only be taken as part of a carefully managed process which

will require the proposed disclosure to be authorised by a senior police officer who must assess each case on its merits.”

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request. This action cannot be taken as confirmation or denial that Greater Manchester Police holds the information you have asked for.

Complaint Rights

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

Yours sincerely,