

**Information Governance Unit
Information Management Branch**

XXXX

23rd July 2010

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/06/2010, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 25/06/2010. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you state the number of occasions - if any - since 1st January 2008, when your force has employed any "external" media consultants – i.e. personnel in addition to those employed by your force in your own media department.

Please give details for each occasion, stating why the outside consultants were employed (e.g. for assistance with a major investigation, for staff training etc).

Please also name the consultants or companies involved and supply the costs of hiring them in each instance.

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, (GMP).

Since 1st Jan 2008, GMP have utilised the services of Newstalk Media Consultants, on 15 occasions, for staff training at a cost of £1,000 per occasion.

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 me on telephone number 0161 856 2529 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Information Access Officer

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require Greater Manchester Police to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again –

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of Greater Manchester Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a complaint with Greater Manchester Police to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

Corporate Information Manager
Greater Manchester Police
Police Headquarters
Chester House
Boyer Street
Manchester
M16 0RE

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with Greater Manchester Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you can make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make an application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk. Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545 700