

**Information Governance Unit
Information Management Branch**

XXXX

13th August 2010

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/07/2010, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 16/07/2010. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1 -How many police officers are in the force;**
- 2- How many hours of overtime were paid by the force in the last 12 month period available (either the last 12 calendar months or the last financial year, whichever is available easiest);**
- 3- How much money was paid in overtime in those 12 months;**
- 4- If available within cost and time constraints, a month-by-month breakdown of overtime paid;**
- 5- Whether there was a waiting list for special constables to join the force in that 12-month period;**
- 6- If so, how many people were on that waiting list.**

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).

In compliance with Section 16 – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Act, please note the statement below:

In the force, there will always be a small number of officers involved in long-term serious investigations or operations, which require long hours because of the risk and the need to get offenders off the streets.

Criminals do not stop at 5pm or take weekends off. The force monitor the use of overtime very closely particularly the top earners. We have been through a period of growth where various special campaigns and operations have been funded separately. This has obviously now come to an end with the new economic situation. In addition, GMP also receives recovery costs (i.e. overtime) for policing football matches from various clubs.

While overtime payments are made, staff, like many others in the public service, put in many hours of additional unpaid effort in their own time.

1 – as at 1st August 2010 GMP employed 8,055 officers in force (headcount) excluding those on career break or seconded out of force. Full time equivalent figure is 7,989.30

2 – for the financial year 2009/10 a total of 1,013,948.18

3 - £24m

4 -

Apr-09	2,841,290
May-09	2,632,154
Jun-09	1,746,051
Jul-09	1,777,378
Aug-09	2,069,682
Sep-09	1,852,667
Oct-09	2,419,662
Nov-09	1,708,740
Dec-09	2,263,030
Jan-10	1,887,961
Feb-10	1,249,372
Mar-10	1,808,645

5 & 6

GMP has not had a waiting list for specials applicants in the last 12-month period. All applications received are processed through the recruitment stages, which takes approximately 6 months. Please note, all potential applicants now need to book on an information evening prior to receiving a link to complete an on-line application. The evenings book up quickly but we are currently running a session every month.

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