

**Information Management Section
IT Services Branch**

19 June 2008

Dear XXXX,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/05/2008, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 20/05/2008, for the I note you seek access to the following information:

- Question 1. I will like to request a copy of your specific Risk Assessment and specific contingency plan for the Eufa Cup final event held on the 14th May 2008.
- Question 2. I also request a copy of any minutes of meetings recorded prior to this event including meetings held with Manchester City Council and Network Rail regarding this event.
- Question 3. I would also like to request a copy of any minutes of any meetings or internal investigations carried out by GMP following the despicable rioting by members of the public.
- Question 4. How many GMP officers were employed for the event and a breakdown of their specific job titles and numbers (senior officers, front line officers, riot police, student officers, special constables, police community support officers etc)?
- Question 5. How many police officers were employed from out with GMP for the event and a breakdown of their specific job titles and numbers (senior officers, front line officers, riot police, student officers, special constables, police community support officers etc)?
- Question 6. At what stage and time before and during the event where more police officers deployed and from where?
- Question 7. Can you also please quantify the numbers of officers available at each location (Piccadilly Gardens, Albert Square, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester City Football Stadium, Piccadilly Train Station and Oxford Road Station and any other area)?
- Question 8. How many officers were injured during the event?
- Question 9. What were the expected numbers of fans prior to the event and how is this data was quantified?
- Question 10. What were the actual numbers for the event and how was this data quantified?

Question 11. Was any other location considered for the event (open park, stadium, field etc)?

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

Result Of Searches

Question 1. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. May I advise you to contact Manchester City Council and The City of Manchester City Football Club, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 2. The requested information is not held in an easily retrievable format and would require the manual searching of a number of departmental email systems, which would take approximately 40 hours. This part of your request exceeds, the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom Of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 and is refused.

Question 3. At the time of your request, no information could be identified in relation to this question. However, I can confirm that an investigation has now been launched into this matter.

Question 4, 5, 6, 7. The information to these questions are exempt by virtue of s31(1)(a)(b)(c), where the release of information would, or would likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and/or the administration of justice.

This is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and, as such, I am required to apply both the public interest test and evidence the harm in disclosure. I have set these out overleaf.

Section 17 of the Freedom Of Information Act requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide 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 (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. I trust the above paragraphs covers these requirements.

Notwithstanding, in relation to the deployment of police officers for Piccadilly and Oxford Train Stations at question 7, may I advise you to contact British Transport Police, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 8. 39 officers were injured during this event.

Question 9. The expected number was 60,000, this figure was quantified by Strathclyde Police, Rangers FC and Rangers Fan Club.

Question 10. This information is exempt by virtue of s21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this is where the requested information is accessible to the applicant by other means. The requested information can be accessed via the following link:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/7456386.stm>

May I also advise that you contact Manchester City Council, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 11. The following locations were considered: Heaton Park and Manchester Athletics Arena.

HARM in relation to prejudice based exemptions

A number of harm may be generated by the disclosure of the information you have requested. Future police operations may be prejudiced if information relating to the number of officers on duty or deployed to a particular area were disclosed.

Disclosing police capabilities in relation to a particular operation could also prejudice the detection and prevention of crimes by individuals, which may ultimately result in safety implications for the general public, placing the well being of citizens at risk. Any information, which would do so therefore has the potential to place people at risk, and undermine Police operations.

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure:

Accountability - When information disclosed relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the force or its officers. The purpose of the Act is to make public authorities more accountable and this factor therefore, maybe applied to a wide range of scenarios from how an individual or the force fulfils their role or function, to policy decisions that have been taken in relation to investigations or general policy issues. In this case, Greater Manchester Police may be obliged, to demonstrate to the general public how they actively policed the Uefa Cup Final.

Public Awareness and Debate - Where release of information would contribute to the quality and accuracy of public debate. This factor applies where the release of accurate information will inform and enhance public debate on particular subjects that may be topical. In this case, releasing information into the public domain on the policing of this event may inform public debate and boost levels of confidence within the community.

Public interest considerations favouring non-disclosure:

Efficient and Effective Conduct of the Service/a Force - where current or future law enforcement role of the force, may be compromised by the release of information. In this case, information relating to the operational capabilities and strategy of police operation, is sensitive and disclosure may compromise the ability of the force to prevent and detect crime and protect life and/or property, by providing potential perpetrators with the ability to adopt counter measures.

Public Safety

There may be occasions where the release of information relating to public safety may not be in the public interest. Public safety is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and must be considered in respect of every release of information. In this case, information that would potentially thwart present or future policing or cause more crime will adversely affect public safety.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test we have to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is Public Awareness and Debate, which needs to be compared to the strongest negative reason, which in this case is Efficient and Effective Conduct of the Service/a Force.

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 2528 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,