

**Information Governance Unit  
Information Management Branch**

XXXX

7<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear XXXX

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/06/2010, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 10/06/2010 and clarified by you on 21/06/10. I note you seek access to the following information:

**I am currently researching the topic of Drug Testing by the police (ethics, juridical aspects, workload, legal status etc.) and request information on the situation in Greater Manchester in respect of the number of drug tests carried out, the substances detected as a result of tests, and the number of prosecution during 2009. Finally I would appreciate details of the relevant legislation covering drug testing (random or otherwise) by police.**

**Clarification – Persons tested for drugs following arrest i.e. Drugs Intervention Programme, Mandatory Drugs Test, including what legal powers cover the obtaining of the drug test from individuals?**

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.

**Responses**

The following information is for the financial year April 2009 to March 2010:

Drug tests carried out under the Drug Interventions Programme amounted to 22,713.

Substances detected were recorded as Cocaine and Opiates.

The programme is directed at getting people into treatment, off drugs and away from crime. There is no aim to prosecute people under the programme, so we do not have prosecution figures.

The legislation re drug testing is as follows:

2.1 The Drugs Act 2005 (section 7 and the Amendments set out in paragraphs 1 to 4 of Schedule 1 to that Act) amended the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) to provide for the introduction of testing persons for specified Class A drugs while in detention on arrest, while retaining the powers under section 63B of PACE (as inserted by section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and subsequently amended by section 5

of the Criminal Justice Act 2003) to test persons for specified Class A drugs (heroin, cocaine/crack) after charge.

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?

Information Governance Unit, Information Management Branch, Greater Manchester Police,  
Chester House, Boyer Street, Manchester M16 0RE  
Tel: 0161 856 2529, Fax: 0161 856 2535, Minicom: 0161 872 6633,  
Email: [freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk)

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](http://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