

**Information Management Section
IT Services Branch**

18 June 2008

Dear XXXX,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/05/2008, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 19/05/2008 for the following information:

1. Prior to consultation with Rangers Football Club & Glasgow City Council, how many Rangers fans did you anticipate travelling to the UEFA Cup final on Wednesday 14 May 2008?
2. After consultation with Rangers Football Club & Glasgow City Council, did you revise your planning? If so, how many Rangers fans did you anticipate travelling to Manchester for UEFA Cup final?
3. How many officers were on duty between 12:00 & 17:00 on day of the UEFA Cup final?
4. How many of said officers were deployed at Piccadilly Fanzone??
5. How many riot officers were on duty Wednesday 14 May?
6. When was the decision made to use the Velodrome?
7. Why was everything shut in the city centre at midnight? Who made the decision?
8. When was the decision made to deploy riot police at Piccadilly fanzone?
9. Who made decision to close Piccadilly station and why was that decision made?
10. Why was there no police or very little police presence at Piccadilly Station at 22:50?
11. Do you have any evidence that points to the trouble being caused by non Rangers supporters?
12. Did the Police make the decision to not to show the game at the Piccadilly fanzone?.

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. No information held by Greater Manchester Police.

Information Management Section, IT Services Branch, Police Headquarters,
Chester House, Boyer Street, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 0RE
Tel: 0161 856 2528/2668, Fax: 0161 856 2535, Minicom: 0161 872 6633,
Email: freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk

Question 2. The planning was revised and 60,000 people were initially anticipated and then revised to 100,000.

Question 3,4, 5. 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.

Question 6. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. May I advise you to contact Manchester City Council, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 7. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. May I advise you to contact Manchester City Council, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 8. From 0700hrs onward, Public Order Trained Officers were deployed in Piccadilly Fan Zone.

Question 9. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. May I advise you to contact British Transport Police, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 10. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. May I advise you to contact British Transport Police, who maybe able to assist you further.

Question 11. 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 12. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. May I advise you to contact Manchester City Council, who maybe able to assist you further.

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,