

**Information Governance Unit
Information Management Branch**

4th February 2011

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: XXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/01/2011, which was received by Greater Manchester Police on 12/01/2011. I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to request information on cars made available by your force to Senior Officers.

Requests:

- 1: A current list of cars provided for senior officers (make, model and any further details available).**
- 2: Actual or estimated purchase costs for all cars provided for senior officers since April 2006 including a note of whether the cars were acquired new or not.**
- 3: A full lists of all cars (make, model) provided for senior officers since April 2006 including the dates they were in service and if possible what happened to them (were they sold, for example, and if so for what value?)**
- 4: The annual costs of servicing and insuring these cars as covered by the police force (or otherwise an itemised list of costs relevant to servicing and insuring these cars). If possible for years 2009-2010, 2008-9 and 2007-8.**
- 5: The annual costs covered by the police force of drivers (salary, and where possible, expenses) if relevant. I would like this for the years 2009-10, 2008-9, 2007-8.**

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).

With reference to the part of your request within Q2 asking for the "actual or estimated purchase cost", your request for that information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such 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.

The exemption applicable to the information is Section 43(2) - Commercial Interests. This exemption is a qualified and class based exemption, therefore is subject to the public interest test – see below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the purchase price of the cars utilised by the Command team of GMP would give the public a better understanding, and assist with public debate, of the use of public funds by GMP. This would be especially pertinent within the present economic climate.

Factors Favouring Non-disclosure

The disclosure of the purchase price of the cars would prejudice the commercial interests of third parties i.e. suppliers etc. Disclosure would, inevitably, damage any ongoing or future contracts and/or tender processes between GMP and its suppliers. This would result in a loss of confidence with GMP by those third parties and a likelihood of civil action being taken against GMP.

Balancing Test

At this time, given the persuasive argument above, the decision to exempt the disclosure of the purchase price of the cars outweighs the decision to disclose the information. The commercial interests of GMP and any relevant third parties would be compromised and the likelihood of civil action against GMP would be realised.

For all other information requested please refer to the attached spreadsheet.

Please note the following in relation to questions 4 and 5:

Re Q4 – the vehicles used by the Command team of GMP, i.e. Chief Constable, Assistant Chief Constables and Assistant Chief Officers, are insured as part of the overall fleet of vehicles owned by GMP.

Re Q5 – for the requested period, GMP has had one post-holder, full time equivalent, who drives for the Chief Officer team. This post-holder is employed for administration duties for the Chief Officer team and also as the Chief Constable's driver. During the financial year 2009/10 this post was civilianised, prior to this the post-holder was a Police constable. Two part time members of staff initially took over this role and then, latterly, one member of police staff became full time.

The breakdown of costs including salary, national insurance, superannuation and expenses is exempt by virtue of Section 40(2) – Personal Information of the Act, which is an absolute and classed based exemption and relates to personal data that is likely to identify a third party.

However in compliance with Section 16 – the duty to provide advice and assistance – I can confirm that the salary grade for the post of Chief Constable's Driver is D/E = £18,471 to £23,046.

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