

Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011773/U

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011773/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/12/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. How many officers have been involved with Operation Palanga between March 2020 and October 2021.*
- 2. How many hours the OIC of Operation Palanga worked on this case and what is the approximate cost per hour.*

Result of Searches

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. However, I am not obliged to supply the information held as exemptions apply.

The request has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

- **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**
- **Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities**

Section 40 is classed as an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating incidents of this nature.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that could be from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.