



Date: 20/07/2023
Our ref: GSA 3233/23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 3233/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/06/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide me with the following information year to year from 2013 to 2023:

- 1. The number of currently serving officers and staff members of GMP***
- 2. The number of currently serving officers and staff members with criminal convictions***
- 3. The total number of complaints against officers and staff members that were successful via;***
 - a) misconduct hearings and***
 - b) criminal prosecutions***
- 4. For all of these datasets to done for each separate department of GMP (ie PSD, anti corruption department, senior management, data protection department, legal department, police officers).***

Revision from applicant - . I appreciate a 10 year period would result in a heavy workload and would be happy to receive a 4 year period. So the data for 2020, 2021, 2022 and current year please.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP, However, I am not obliged to provide the information for question 2, 3 and 4 of this request as exemptions apply.

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

Question 2,3 have been exempted from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

The information requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 22(1)(a) – Information intended for future publication**. The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) is coordinating a Historic Data Wash of Police Workforce Nominal Records against the Police National Database (PND). The current intention is to publish this by no later than January 2024.

The intention is to publish the following data disaggregated to police officers, staff and volunteers:

- (a) Total number of searches completed (number of individuals broken down to force level)
- (b) Number of individuals with no concern (broken down to force level)
- (c) Number of individuals of potential concern escalated to the appropriate authority (broken down to force level) and of those:
 - i) Number of individuals triggering further criminal investigation enquiries
 - ii) Number of individuals triggering a disciplinary investigation
 - iii) Number of individuals subject of vetting clearance review
 - iv) Number of individuals subject of management intervention or other action
 - v) Number of individuals subject of no action

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

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Question 4 has been exempted from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

Disclosure of the number of Police Officers and staff in specific areas of policing reveals tactical capability and vulnerabilities from force to force and would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of Greater Manchester Police. To disclose operational strength would hinder Greater Manchester Police in law enforcement capabilities.

The safety of the public is of a paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the number of police officers and staff for all departments would compromise the safety of the public that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect.

Furthermore, this would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of Greater Manchester Police in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This would also give an advantage to those intent on committing crimes and avoid detection.

Factors in favour of disclosure

To disclose how many officers and police staff there are within each department of policing would show accountability of Greater Manchester Police in performing a key policing function. Disclosure would encourage public awareness and debate and may reduce crime or lead to more information being provided to Greater Manchester Police from the public for the prevention and detection of crime. Disclosure could be seen how Greater Manchester Police are using its resources to prevent crime.

Furthermore, there is always a need to disclose information which relates to the spending of public money. It is in the public's interest to see how resources are balanced across Greater Manchester Police.

Factors against disclosure

To disclose details of police officers and staff would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the force, especially the force's future law enforcement tactics being compromised. The safety of the public is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect and place individuals at risk.

Disclosure would lead to a greater impact on police resources, in that this could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and more crime being committed. It would give advantage to those individuals intent on criminal activity as it may assist potential criminals in evading the police as more vulnerable areas of lower policing levels would become evident. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify vulnerable areas and target and exploit these areas resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be Greater Manchester Police's accountability and transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the police service is charged with enforcing the law; preventing and detecting crime and protecting the people/communities we serve and the potential for harm caused by premature release of information prior to the full scrutiny process having occurred.

In this case this is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime. In this case, I believe the case for disclosure is not made out. In relation to Q 2 and 3 the stance at this time is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by NPCC.

The police will not divulge any information that would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing, and in this case providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminal activity, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the resource capability which could highlight which forces are focussing more on certain areas.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for these particular parts of this request.

Please see the remainder of information which is not exempt below.

Q1. This data excludes seconded officers, career break officers. Additionally note: our reporting year runs from 1st April – 31st March and month end to month end; therefore I have provided figures for the requested years based on that basis.

Year	PCSO	Police officers	Police staff
2019/2020	571	6821	3987
2020/2021	567	7081	3997
2021/2022	546	7365	4188
2022/2023	430	7906	4519

Q2. Section 22 (see above)

Q3. Section 22 (see above)

Q4 Section 31 (see above)