



[REDACTED]

Date: 5th June 2023
Our ref: GSA 2542/23

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 2542/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/05/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request information about the following airports:

*Manchester Airport
Prestwick Airport*

For each of these airports, I would like to request the following:

*Q1 Number of arrests
Q2 Most common offences*

For both of these, I would like the data broken down for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far if possible.

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 all the information requested as exemption applies.

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

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

Due to low numbers returned redactions have been made within the data provided, this relates to Section 40(2) Personal Information, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Question 1

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

Year	Number of arrests	Most common offences
2018	72	Money laundering
2019	338	Assault (section of act not specified)
2020	215	Assault (section of act not specified)
2021	207	Assault (section of act not specified)
2022	467	Assault (section of act not specified)

Question 2

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2022 where the district is Manchester Airport, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.
- Information is not held in the format of the "*most common offences*". The crime tree level 4 has been included in the response data to allow the requester to identify the crimes they require.

Crime tree level 4	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All other theft offences	356	346	108	91	453
Bicycle theft	12	15	6	X	24
Business and community burglary	X	7	14	X	8
Criminal damage and arson offences	102	50	27	29	75
Homicide	X	X	X	X	X
Miscellaneous crimes against society	21	50	34	45	93
Other sexual offences	17	23	12	X	30

Possession of drugs	29	10	X	10	25
Possession of weapon offences	216	195	59	26	35
Public order offences	113	109	38	62	158
Rape	X	X	X	X	X
Residential burglary	X	X	X	X	X
Robbery of business property	X	X	X	X	X
Robbery of personal property	X	X	X	X	X
Shoplifting	80	78	26	33	88
Stalking and harassment	7	14	X	6	19
Theft from the person	42	42	26	22	85
Trafficking of drugs	X	X	X	X	X
Vehicle offences	282	169	73	96	285
Violence with injury	25	17	X	X	15
Violence without injury	83	83	29	59	111

There are no results for Prestwick Airport as this airport is not in our jurisdiction. For information regarding Prestwick Airport you will need to contact Police Scotland as we can only provide information for Greater Manchester.

Further to the above responses, GMP can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information. The information you requested as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) – National Security
Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Harm in complying with s1(1)(a) – to confirm or not whether any other information is held

Any release under FOIA is a disclosure to the world, not just to the individual making the request. To confirm or not whether any other information is held pertinent to this request would reveal whether or not GMP has recorded a crime at an airport which may be terrorist related.

Police forces work in conjunction with other agencies and information is freely shared in line with information sharing protocols. Modern-day policing is intelligence led and this is particularly pertinent with regard to both law enforcement and national security. The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to them to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety.

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The current [UK threat level from international terrorism](#), based on intelligence, is assessed as substantial which means that a terrorist attack is likely.

In order to counter criminal and terrorist behaviour, it is vital that the police have the ability to work together, where necessary covertly, to obtain intelligence within current legislative frameworks to assist in the investigative process to ensure the successful arrest and prosecution of offenders who commit or plan to commit acts of terrorism.

To achieve this goal, it is vitally important that information sharing takes place between police officers, members of the public, police forces as well as other law enforcement bodies within the United Kingdom. Such action would support counter-terrorism measures in the fight to deprive terrorist networks of their ability to commit crime.

The impact of providing information under FOI which aids in identifying whether or not GMP has recorded a crime occurring at an airport which was terror related, would provide those intent on committing criminal or terrorists acts with valuable information as to where the police are targeting their investigations.

In addition, to confirm or deny whether any other information is held in this case has the potential to undermine the flow of information (intelligence) received into the Police Service relating to these types of offences thereby undermining National Security and leaving the United Kingdom at risk of more terrorist attack.

Public Interest Considerations

Section 24(2) National Security

Factors favouring complying with s(1)(1)(a) confirming whether any other information is held

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and resources distributed within an area of policing, particularly with regard to how the police investigate terrorist offending. To confirm whether or not any other information exists would enable the general public to hold GMP to account in relation to how they gather intelligence within areas of policing.

Furthermore, confirmation or denial may improve public debate and assist the community to take steps to protect themselves.

Factors against complying with s1(1)(a) neither confirming nor denying whether any other information is held

Taking into account the current security climate within the United Kingdom, no information which may aid a terrorist should be disclosed. To what extent this information may aid a terrorist is unknown, but it is clear that it will have an impact on a force's ability to monitor terrorist activity.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection. The only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain.

The cumulative effect of terrorists gathering information from various sources would build a picture of vulnerabilities within certain scenarios. The more information disclosed over time will provide a more detailed account of the intelligence received into the force relating to these types of offences which may or may not have occurred at local airports.

Modern-day policing is intelligence led. To confirm or not whether GMP these crimes could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and undermine any ongoing investigations, by restricting the flow of information into the force.

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Factors favouring complying with s1(1)(a) confirming whether any other information is held

It is publicly acknowledged that [criminal offences occur within airports](#) and this fact alone favours confirming information is held.

Factors against complying with s1(1)(a) neither confirming nor denying whether any other information is held

GMP has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. If an FOI disclosure revealed information to the world (by citing an exemption or stating no information held) that would assist an offender, such an action would undermine the security of the national

infrastructure, by revealing our 'intelligence' within major and local airports thereby highlighting vulnerabilities force by force.

By its very nature, by confirming or denying this information is held would undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. Under FOI there is a requirement to comply with s1(1)(a) and confirm what information is held. In some cases it is that confirmation, or not, which could disclose facts harmful to members of the public and police officers.

Balance Test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming, or denying, whether any other information pertinent to this request exists. The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. As part of that policing purpose, various crimes may or may not have been recorded at occurring at airports which are terror related. The Police Service will never divulge whether or not any other information is held if to do so would place the safety of individual(s) at risk or undermine National Security.

Whilst there is a public interest in appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding National Security. As much as there is a public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of National Security, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released. Confirming or denying whether any other information is or isn't held would definitely reveal policing activity and would assist those intent on causing harm. Any incident that results from confirmation or denial would, by default, affect National Security.

Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that for these issues the balance test for confirming, nor denying, whether any other information is held with regard to crimes reported at airports which may relate to terror activity is not made out.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that any other information does or does not exist.

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