



[REDACTED]

Date: 22/06/2023
Our ref: 2615/23

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 2615/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/05/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

[REDACTED]
I would like to request any information you may have regarding earwitness testimony protocols within your police force.

An earwitness testimony refers to a statement or account provided by an individual who claims to have heard or overheard a particular event or conversation. It is like an eyewitness testimony but specifically focuses on what someone heard rather than what they saw. Earwitness testimonies can be crucial in legal proceedings, such as criminal investigations or trials, where they may provide important information or evidence regarding an incident, or the identification of individuals involved. However, like eyewitness testimonies, earwitness testimonies can be subject to limitations, biases, and inaccuracies, and their reliability may vary depending on various factors such as the conditions of the event, the memory and perception abilities of the witness, the way in which the information is collected by a police officer and other contextual factors.

[REDACTED]

Therefore, I would like you to answer the following questions and please provide as much detail as possible. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- 1) Does the police force have any in-house or nationwide protocols at present for eliciting earwitness testimonies? If yes, what document, guidelines or tools are used?*
- 2) What training is in place for how police officers conduct an initial account from a victim/witness when taking an earwitness testimony?*

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.

1. GMP does not have a specific policy relating to earwitness testimony. For national policies, please contact the College of Policing or the National Police Chiefs Council, as national policies are produced by these agencies.
2. There is no training specifically relating to obtaining earwitness testimony. Most earwitness testimony will be recorded in the form of a witness statement. GMP do not record how the witness gathered the evidence.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]