

Our ref: GSA 671/23
Please quote our reference
number when responding

Thursday, 02 March 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 671/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/02/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to submit a request under the freedom of information act for data held relating to the Queen's funeral arrangements in London last year.

Please tell me:

- 1) what was the estimated cost to the force of the Queen's funeral, if any*
- 2) what types of activity relating to the funeral resulted in a cost to the force, and how much did each activity cost - please present this as a breakdown to question 1, eg staffing costs, accommodation, catering, transport etc*

I would like data concerning all activities associated with the funeral proceedings - for instance, the Queen lying in state, transporting the Queen's coffin, the actual funeral procession etc.

If including staffing costs, please give me a breakdown of what would be a cost that the force would normally expect to have had (for instance police officers already scheduled to work who were deployed to activities related to the funeral, ie opportunity costs) versus additional costs eg from deploying more officers than would be usual.

Clarification received on 06/02/2023

I am just getting in touch with a clarification regarding an FOI I put in last week on the royal funeral, following a question I have received from one force to which I put the same request.

I am primarily interested in the cost burden to your specific force - what you may describe as non-recoverable spend. However, if you have expenditure that was recovered, I would ask for you to provide two figures for each question/cost breakdown - a total expenditure and a total non-recoverable expenditure.

I would for instance want to differentiate between expenditure that was recovered from another public body eg if London Metropolitan Police covered the cost of any assistance provided to Avon and Somerset. An FOI has also been sent to London Metropolitan about their costs.

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, but I am not obliged to provide it as an exemption apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 request has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1) - Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice-based and qualified exemption. There is a requirement to articulate the harm in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information on specific operations/events could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on an operational team or avoiding that team for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not). Moreover, the information may be used to identify what resources may be allocated to events, operations or personnel movements.

Providing the information on specific events provides opportunities for criminality to benefit, or for risks to be extended to members of the public.

Public Interest Test

Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of resource capability to protect themselves and members of the public against crimes and terrorism activities allocated to operations/events.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

To provide such information could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder the Police force's ability to protect themselves and member of the public against crimes and terrorism activities. The threat of crimes will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of criminals and terrorist gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the forces. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals and terrorist identify different levels of training regarding different officers and target and exploit this resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

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.

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 openness. However, this needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime and protecting the people/communities we serve.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.



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