



[REDACTED]

Date: 27/04/2023
Our ref: 1687/23

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 1687/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/03/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *How many individual dogs are currently actively employed in your dog section / dog support unit? Could I have this figure for every year 2010-present.*
2. *How many individual horses are currently actively employed in your force mounted unit (if such a unit exists). Could I have this figure for every year 2010-present.*

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 all of it as an exemption applies.

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.

Both of your questions are exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1) - Law Enforcement

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of information on operational resources in specific area could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could be used to identify the team capabilities and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on the operational team or avoiding that team for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

Public Interest Test

Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of police resources used to protect themselves and members of the public against crimes and terrorism activities on specific area of operations.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

To provide such information on the specific area 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 operation. 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 police resources 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 Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for this particular piece of information.

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