

Date: 21/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011578/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011578/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. *How many female police dog handlers have been pregnant or off on maternity leave in the last 10 years?***
- 2. *Of those how many were required to hand over their dog wether this be general-purpose or specialist to another handler to be re handled?***
- 3. *Of those who was able to continue to work their dog once they came back to work? This can be in calendar years***
- 4. *I would like to know what GMP's policy is in regards to the removal out rehandle of police dogs once a female dog handlers is pregnant or on maternity leave,***
- 5. *I would ideally like to see a copy of the policy***

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.

Question 1.
None

Question 2.
N/A

Question 3.
N/A

Question 4 & 5

Please see an extract from the Tactical Dog Unit policy containing the information to answer both questions above.

5.1.8 Pregnancy, Maternity & Flexible Working

- Where a member of the Dog Unit is pregnant, consideration must be given to the welfare of both the officer concerned and the police dogs they are responsible for handling. This may mean that whilst the officer is pregnant or on maternity leave their police dog(s) may be allocated to another officer on either a temporary or permanent basis.
- Each individual case would consider the age and specialism of the police dog(s) and the capability of the officer to provide adequate care for the police dog. All considerations would be discussed with the officer concerned and senior management, in conjunction with HR, to ensure legality and staff welfare.