



Date: 30/10/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011294/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011294/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/09/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to make a freedom of information request concerning information about specialist modern slavery officers and training.

Please tell me:

- 1) As of 6th September 2023, how many specialist modern slavery and trafficking police officers are employed by the force? Please provide a breakdown by both rank, and by PIP level, where applicable.*
- 2) As of 6th September 2023, how many vacancies are there for specialist modern slavery and trafficking police officers in the force? Please provide a breakdown of the vacancy rank and PIP level, where applicable*
- 3) Does the force have a specialist modern slavery and trafficking unit? Please provide the name of this unit, and its budget for the last five financial years*
- 4) How many a) officers and b) police staff does the force employ and, as of 6th September 2023, how many of these have received specialist modern slavery training during their employment to date? Please distinguish between officers and staff in your answer*

5) As in question 4, how many a) officers and b) police staff have received modern slavery training in the past year, the past two years and the past three years? Please provide separate answers for each time period and please only include current employees

6) How many staff work in a procurement function, and how many of these have completed specialist modern slavery training?

7) How many staff working in a procurement function have received modern slavery training in the past year, the past two years and the past three years? Please provide separate answers for each time period and please only include current employees

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 you with all of the information 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. The information you have requested in question 1 and parts of the information you have requested in questions 3 and 4 are exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a)(b) - 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 information on operational resources in specific areas, such as modern slavery investigations, could be of intelligence value to a person 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 Modern Slavery. Disclosure would encourage public awareness and debate and may reduce crime or lead to more information being provided to GMP from the public for the prevention and detection of crime. Disclosure could be seen how GMP are using its resources to prevent crime. Furthermore, there is always a need to disclose information which relates to the spending of public money. It is in the public's interest to see how resources are balanced across GMP.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

To provide such information on a specific operational resource could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder GMP's ability to protect themselves and members of the public against modern slavery. The threat of crimes will increase as more crimes are committed because of criminals 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 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 and 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 those pieces of information.

Please find the rest of your requested information below.

Caveats

Reply

1. Exempt under S31(1)(a)(b), see above.
2. Zero
3. Yes, The Modern Slavery Unit. The budget of this unit is exempt under S31(1)(a)(b), see above.
4.
 - a. 7,863
 - b. 4,868The number of officers and staff who have completed specialist modern slavery training is exempt under S31(1)(a)(b), see above.
5. 2021: 17
2022: 109
2023: 70
Please note that we are unable to provide a breakdown of officers or staff for this information.
6. 10, 8 of whom have completed Modern Slavery Training.
7. This information is not held by GMP. Records are not kept relating to when this training was conducted.