



Date: 13/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011453/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011453/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide me with all information held (internal and external messages, email, documents, written correspondence, WhatsApps, voice notes, messaging, calendar information) in relation to Chief Constable Stephen Watson's speech at the fringe event of the Conservative Party conference referred to in the Daily Mail article of 08.10.23.

The information should cover any recorded decision making or discussions in relation to attendance at the event, recent considerations as to the cause of shoplifting or the attitude of young people.

The subjects at GMP should include Stephen Watson, his advisors, Personal Assistants, Staff Officer, Chief Officer team or their own PAs or Staff Officers. Further, any correspondence between any of these individuals and those working at the Home Office, in relation to policing, impartiality or future policy changes - including the Home Secretary and her office. Or between the aforementioned individuals and Gavin Stephens (NPCC), and to Andy Cooke (HMICFRS).

Finally, I would like a copy of any information held which covers the assessment of impartiality in relation to the Chief Constable's attendance at such events.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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. Where redactions in the attached emails have been made, that information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 40(2)(a) – Personal Information.**

Where Section 40 has been used, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Furthermore, the attachment referenced in the attached emails is exempt under the following exemption: **Section 21 – Information Accessible to the Applicant by Other Means.** The attachment is a flyer promoting the event. This is in the public domain and can be found on [The Freedom Association's website](#).

Please find attached two redacted email chains. This is all of the information held by GMP relating to Chief Constable Watson's invitation and attendance at this event.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Terence Woods](#); [Stephen Watson](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: coverage of fringe meeting
Date: 09 October 2023 12:31:00

The links below take you to coverage of last week's fringe meeting. I didn't mention this this morning because we took no enquiries since the report was a verbatim quote. In summary there looks to be wholehearted support from the DM readers commenting but not from MEN commentors. Those leaving negative comments largely refer to the need for police officers to act in a way that encourages respect from people, with particular reference to the custody claims and to the need to improve performance.

[Police chief: Crime is being driven by an entitled generation that has never been told 'no' - and who instead take pride in not respecting others | Daily Mail Online](#)

[Greater Manchester Police's top cop claims younger generation is 'entitled' and not used to being told 'no' - Manchester Evening News](#)

[REDACTED] | Head of Strategic Communications | Corporate Communications | Greater Manchester Police - Force HQ | Northampton Road | Manchester M40 5BP | Email: [REDACTED] | Landline: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED] | Twitter: @GMPolice | Facebook: GTRManchesterPolice

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stephen Watson](#)
Subject: Re: Invitation from The Freedom Association
Date: 10 October 2023 13:50:07

Caution: This email came from outside GMP. Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognise the sender's e-mail address and know the content is safe.

Dear Stephen,

I would like to thank you again for your contributions at our fringe debate last week. It was so kind of you to agree to speak, and as promised, when I get a copy of the video, I will send it to you for review before we post it on YouTube.

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Allison MCIJ

Chief Executive, The Freedom Association

83 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0HW

m: [REDACTED]

w: www.tfa.net e: [REDACTED]

On Thu, 28 Sept 2023 at 11:18, Stephen Watson <Stephen.Watson@gmp.police.uk> wrote:

Hi Andrew

All noted, with thanks.

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Superintendent

Chief of Staff to Chief Constable Stephen Watson QPM

Greater Manchester Police

M: [REDACTED]

From: Allison, Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 September 2023 09:16
To: Stephen Watson <Stephen.Watson@gmp.police.uk>
Subject: Re: Invitation from The Freedom Association

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My apologies. It is now attached!

Andrew

Andrew Allison MCIJ

Chief Executive, The Freedom Association

83 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0HW

m: [REDACTED]

w: www.tfa.net e: [REDACTED]

On Thu, 28 Sept 2023 at 09:15, Allison, Andrew [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Watson on Monday. Please see the attached flyer promoting the event. All I ask is that he arrives five minutes before the starting time of 3.00 pm. If he is delayed for any reason, please let me know by texting my

mobile: [REDACTED].

Many thanks and best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Allison MCIJ

Chief Executive, The Freedom Association

83 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0HW

m: [REDACTED]

w: www.tfa.net e: [REDACTED]

On Wed, 30 Aug 2023 at 10:02, Stephen Watson <Stephen.Watson@gmp.police.uk> wrote:

Perfect, we look forward to hearing from you closer to the time.

[REDACTED]

From: Allison, Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 August 2023 17:40
To: Stephen Watson <Stephen.Watson@gmp.police.uk>
Subject: Re: Invitation from The Freedom Association

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Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for your reply. I will have it wrapped up inside an hour.

I would like to know what he has done and is doing to reduce crime rates in Greater Manchester.

Please thank Mr Watson on my behalf. I'm thrilled that he can join us.

I'll be in touch again closer to the date.

Best wishes,

Andrew

On Tue, 29 Aug 2023 at 17:19, Stephen Watson <Stephen.Watson@gmp.police.uk> wrote:

Good Afternoon Andrew,

Thank you for your email to Chief Constable Stephen Watson.

Mr Watson would be please to join you as a panellist, unfortunately he only has an hour available but hopefully that will be sufficient.

I'd be grateful if you could let me know if there are specific issue in Manchester you would like him to address.

Kind regards,



Detective Inspector 

Staff Officer to Chief Constable Stephen Watson QPM

Greater Manchester Police

Central Park, Northampton Road

Manchester, M40 5BP

Mobile: 

Office: 

Ext: 

Email: 

From: Chief Constable <Chief.Constable@gmp.police.uk>

Sent: 14 August 2023 08:35

To: Stephen Watson <Stephen.Watson@gmp.police.uk>

Subject: FW: Invitation from The Freedom Association

Good morning,

Please find the below invitation.

Kind regards,



Executive Support Assistant

[REDACTED]

Force Command Team

From: Allison, Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2023 11:51
To: Chief Constable <Chief.Constable@gmp.police.uk>
Subject: Invitation from The Freedom Association

Caution: This email came from outside GMP. Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognise the sender's e-mail address and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Watson,

I have watched with pleasure the way you have turned around GMP. It reminded me of a conversation I had with Tim Hollis, who at the time was Chief Constable of Humberside Police. He told me in his office, that "he likes nicking villains." Very reassuring as a resident!

The Freedom Association will be holding a fringe debate during the Conservative Party Conference about law and order. It will take place on Monday 2nd October at 3.00 pm at the Friends' Meeting House, [6 Mount St, Manchester, M2 5NS](#).

Rupert Matthews, the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire, has confirmed that he will be a panelist. I will get one (maybe two) Conservative MPs to be panellists, too. I would be delighted if you agreed to join us. We need the perspective of a senior police officer on what you can do to reduce crime and the political constraints you operate under.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best wishes,

Andrew

Andrew Allison MCIJ

Chief Executive, The Freedom Association

83 Victoria Street

London

SW1H 0HW

m: [REDACTED]

w: www.tfa.net e: [REDACTED]

