

Date: 20/10/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011412/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011412/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***Would you be able to provide an image file of the logo of Greater Manchester Police in vector format (AI/EPS/CDR/SVG/PDF)?
I would like to update the logo of the Greater Manchester Police on Wikipedia. It is currently in vector graphics.***

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 supply all the information requested as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, 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 requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 22(1)(a) – Information intended for future publication.**

The GMP digital comms team are following the UK governments guidance and updating the Digital versions of the crest. The expected update on Wikipedia is due within the next 3 months.

As the exemption used is a qualified exemption a public interest test (PIT) needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow for the public to see changes to the online Wikipedia page immediately. The visual component is an important part of any organisation, and this would enhance the legitimacy of the page to the public. This would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds.

GMP have a comms team who maintain Wikipedia and as per the guidelines set out by the UK Government in the approach we've taken to updating our branding, we are updating digital versions of the crest as and when the need arises to remain respectful for Her Late Majesty. GMP also must consider the use of any GMP logo being used for such activities in which to gain a profit without consent involving the use of unauthorised production of merchandise bearing the GMP logo.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is that GMP are following the UK governments guidance in updating digital versions of the crest going forward. Therefore, the stance at this time is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.

In accordance with the S17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice