

Date: 23/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011666/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011666/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/11/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request detailed information regarding the expenditure on flights by your force over the past three years.

Specifically, I seek the following details:

Total Expenditure on Flights:

- 1. A breakdown of the total amount spent on flights by your police force, year by year, for the last three years (FY 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 so far).***
- 2. The number of flights paid for by your force.***
- 3. Class of Flights:***
- 4. Information on how many of these flights were economy class, compared to business class or first class.***
- 5. Expenditure broken down by each class.***
- 6. Destination and Purpose:
Details of each flight's destination/reason/date***

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, but I am not obliged to provide all the information requested 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 exemption that applies to operational flight details and exact dates of all flights is:

Section 30(1)(a) - Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose information regarding operational flights into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds and highlight the necessary need for using this method of travel.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that may form part of an investigation that is closed or one that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete investigations with full and correct conclusion.

It would also have an impact on the future law enforcement capabilities of GMP, as it would disclose policing investigative techniques, thus hindering any future prevention or detection of crime.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold some of the information from disclosure.

Please see below for the remaining information

Question 1

Flight Costs for 2021	Flight Costs for 2022	Flight Costs for 2023 to date
£7,558	£11,442	£14,764

Question 2

- 2021 - Data provided is from Jan 2021 – Dec 2021. The result is 21
- 2022 - Data provided is from Jan 2022 – Dec 2022. The result is 44
- 2023 - Data provided is from Nov 2022 – Oct 2023. The result is 48

Questions 3, 4 & 5

All flights are booked Economy Class.

Question 6

Please see the above exemption and below for the information which GMP can provide.

List of Destinations	List of Reasons
Belfast	Selection Process
Brussels	Conference
Calgary	Training
Dublin	Awards Event
Isle of Man	Course
Indonesia	
Liverpool	
Lisbon	
London	
Los Angeles	
Newquay	
Milan	
Sweden	
Oslo	
Rome	
Orlando	