



Date: 11/10/2023  
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011262/C

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011262/C**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/08/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. When GMP officers obtain NHS patient records from a hospital or GP practice, who ensures that the medical data is understood by all GMP officers having access to the patient records?*
- 2. When seeking to obtain NHS patient records from a GP practice or NHS hospital, how does GMP identify doctors able to provide this information?*
- 3. When doctors at a GP practice or NHS hospital provide any patient records to the police, are they remunerated?*

**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.

1. There is no one person or unit in charge of training officers to understand medical records. GMP officers will usually also request a formal witness statement (MG11) to go alongside the medical records. This will be prepared by a medical practitioner who will interpret the notes and report it in an easily understood evidential format. It will also

depend on the notes on a case-by-case basis as to how easy they are to understand. The vast majority of cases will not be charged by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) without a doctor's statement alongside the notes. Consent must be obtained from both the patient and the medical professional, and the data is then put on the file and sent off to the CPS.

2. It would be an assumption on the officer's part that (had they not spoken directly to the doctor already – for example, in the hospital) if the individual consenting to their medical records being used has pointed them in the direction of a particular medical professional, they are the ones best-informed to comment on that case (and would signpost the officer to the correct person if not).
3. We will pay for the supply of medical notes and have agreed fees with all NHS trusts in Greater Manchester. However, if the hospital receives a request for medical notes within 40 days of the notes being made, no fee should be incurred apart from postage and copying charges. Payment for doctors' statements is unaffected.