



Date: 31/08/2023

Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011158/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011158/D

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

- 1. I would like to ask, what are the processes that you follow if you attend a house to arrest lets say two adults and you find persons under 18 years of age, that would mean if the two adult's are taken, the under 18's would be left alone in the house.***
- 2. Are there any documents that you hold that laid out what officers should do if and when they come the above***

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 not held by GMP.

"Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form." (Day vs ICO & DWP – EA/2006/0069 Final Decision)

Although this removes GMP's obligations under the Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request please see below.

1. In the instance where both adults are arrested where children are present, officers would make an assessment based on their ages, level of vulnerability and risk as to what would happen to the children. They should also consider the wishes of the child within reason and dependent on age. The time of day is also a consideration and whether there are any suitable friends or relatives available to look after the children. In cases of neglect, abuse etc police may consider Police Protection Powers. In circumstances where parents have been arrested it

is likely that a Strategy meeting with social services will follow and consideration of what level of intervention needs to take place by social services.

2. There are currently no documents that GMP can provide in relation to the process for your example above for Child protection. This is because GMP is currently in the process of developing a new child protection policy in line with recent national and local guidance. We do not have a timescale of when this will be completed.

For more information on police protection powers please use this link. [Children Act 1989 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/24)