

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012260/Z

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Thursday, 28 March 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012260/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/03/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. What is your current email provider (e.g. Outlook or G-suite)?*
- 2. Do you have a solution for secure email in place (Y/N)?*
- 3. Who is your current email security provider (e.g. Egress)?*
- 4. When is the contract up for renewal?*
- 5. Typically what is the chosen duration of these contracts 12, 24, or 36 Months?*
- 6. Name and contact details of the person responsible?*
- 7. Current annual spend for this contract?*
- 8. Current number of licenses for this contract?*
- 9. Did you purchase via a reseller, or partner (if yes, please specify who e.g. Phoenix, Softcat etc.)?*
- 10. Are you planning on assigning specific budgets for securing email communication in 2024?*
- 11. Do you procure through the G-Cloud framework (if not, how do you procure & plan to procure secure email in the future)?*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

1. Outlook
2. Yes
3. Exempt S31 as below
4. April 2024
5. 12 months
6. Exempt S40 as below. Please contact Procurement@gmp.police.uk for any business interest.
7. Circa £2K
8. Exempt S31 as below
9. Direct
10. No
11. Exempt S31 as below

The exemptions applied to the above parts are as follow:

- **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**
- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and do not require public interest test

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test which can be seen below:

Harm

Release via the Freedom of Information Act is deemed release into the public domain. Therefore, whatever information is held, would allow criminals to accurately evaluate the capability of Greater Manchester Police and the systems we use. Such detailed knowledge would allow criminals to make a judgement regarding the systems we use and therefore take measures to target the force.

Public Interest Test

Considerations Favouring Disclosure

Disclosing information about systems which are used by police would provide a greater transparency in their actions and ensure that they operate effectively and efficiently. It is clear

that there is a public interest in public authorities operating in as transparent a manner as possible, as this should allow the public to understand how the force spends public money. Disclosing what systems that are employed should provide the necessary safeguards and satisfy the public interest regarding the use of systems by the police.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure

Where current or future law enforcement role of the force may be compromised by the release of information, then this is unlikely to be in the interest of the public. Providing information on our network and security systems may be more harmful inasmuch as it would reveal a picture of force capability and capacity in a highly sensitive area. If disclosed, information about such systems could identify potential vulnerabilities which could be exploited by criminals, leaving the force more susceptible to cyber-attack and hacking. Infiltration of police systems by hackers would significantly undermine the force ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders.

Balancing Test

For a public interest test, issues that favour disclosure need to be measured against issues that favour non-disclosure. The public interest is not what interests the public, or a particular Individual, but what will be the greater good, if released, to the community as a whole. We recognise that the public interest in being open and transparent is of great importance to all and release of information may assist in the public being more aware of the work that the police are carrying out.

However, it is my view that the public safety from non-disclosure is of greater importance than the advantage of public confidence from the disclosure of this information. Greater Manchester Police will not disclose information that could compromise the future law enforcement role of the force.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.