

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012290/F

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Wednesday, 10 April 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012290/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/03/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

- a) Does your force have a dedicated RASSO unit?*
- b) At 11th March 2024, how many vacancies does your force have for specific RASSO officers (rape and serious sexual offences)?*
- c) How many officers in your force are currently under investigation for criminal offences. Please break these down by offence type.*

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.

- a) The exemption applicable to the information is **Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means**. This is because the information is already freely available at:

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/news/greater-manchester/news/news/2022/december/gmp-reach-new-milestone-in-journey-to-improve-how-rape-and-serious-sexual-assault-cases-are-investigated/>

- b) No information held

- c) The information has been exempt by the virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 30(1)(2)(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 found below.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure on Section 30

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into criminal offences are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure on Section 30

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to full and correct conclusions.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case, 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.