

Date: 15/04/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012384/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012384/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/03/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please release data relating to live warrants for homicide, serious assault, common assault and rape. Please break the information down into category of offence and the month and year the warrant was issued. If the following offence categories aren't included in the above broader categories please also provide date for them:

Other - violence/person

Section 18 wounding

Section 20 wounding

Section 47 assault

Sexual offence

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, I am not obliged to supply this information held as an exemption applies. The request is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 30(1) – 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.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details of live arrest warrants, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is related to investigations that remain open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete those investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must 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 the information from disclosure.

Results

As of 11th April 2024, GMP has 21 outstanding warrants that relate to this request.