



Date: 13/08/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012963/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012963/X

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

I am writing to request information about the role of so-called Evidence Gatherers at the Palestinian protest this afternoon at St Peter's Square.

I want to know how that footage will be used, who will have access to it, as well as the purpose of the so-called "role" of Evidence Gatherer. Are these officeres getting a salary for this or is it just a volunteer role?

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. However, I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested as exemptions apply.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information requested relating to the role of Evidence Gatherers is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The role of Evidence Gatherer is explained in detail on the College of Policing website [Evidence Gathering Team Officer - College of Policing](#). The rest of the information you have requested is not exempt and can be found below.

Are these officeres getting a salary for this or is it just a volunteer role?

The role is a specialism held by Police Officers. It is not a full-time role but completed by officers in addition to their various other roles within GMP.

I want to know how that footage will be used, who will have access to it

The GMP produced leaflet below which is carried by the Evidence Gatherers to educate members of the public outlines the procedure around retention and how footage will be used.

Footage is retained in line with Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and General Data Protection Regulations.

OVERT FILMING

SUBJECT NOTICE

Overt (or open) filming is a method used by police officers and police staff to record the features and clothing of individual(s).

We need to do this for law enforcement purposes, which may include; for the purposes of protecting life and property, preserving public order, preventing crime and assisting in the investigation of officers.

Police personnel from Greater Manchester Police are filming in this area.

The purpose of the filming is:

- ☐ To prevent/detect crime of disorder
- ☐ In the interests of national security
- ☐ In the interests of public safety
- ☐ For the protection of health or morals
- ☐ For the protection of the rights and freedom of others

You will not be stopped or detained purely for the purpose of filming and are under no obligation to co-operate. However, officers do have power in certain circumstances to stop and search person(s) or vehicle(s) for stolen goods, offensive weapons or drugs and to detain them for the purpose of carrying out such a search. If these powers are exercised, officers will explain at the time their reasons for doing so.

In addition, officers also have powers in certain circumstances in relation to the wearing and removal of masks, or any other items they reasonably believe is being worn for the purpose of concealing a person's identity. If these powers are exercised, officers will explain at the time why they are doing so.

The images captured by police in the course of this filming are classified as personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act. As such, the images will be stored and handled in accordance with that Act. If retention of the footage is required, it will be retained in line with the Management of Police Information, otherwise it will be deleted after 30 days.

Where required, the footage may be disclosed to other law enforcement agencies, partner agencies, or organisations working on our behalf. Please visit www.gmp.police.uk to find out more information about your data protection rights and to contact our Data Protection Officer.

GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE

You can access many of our services online at gmp.police.uk
For emergencies only call 999, or 101 if it's less urgent

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

If you have any details concerning those involved in any crime, which may assist police in reducing the numbers of offences occurring, you can call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

CrimeStoppers Trust is a registered charity No. 1108687 (England) and a company limited by guarantee. Your personal details will not be taken. Your call cannot be traced or recorded.