

Date: 12th August 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013016/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013016/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/07/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide blank/template copy of the form used to make an intelligence report

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 provide the information requested as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) 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 exemption which applies to this request is:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

To provide a copy of the intelligence report used by GMP would reveal policing tactics. This would give an advantage to those intent on committing offences and avoid detection as these individuals will be made aware of what information GMP are recording. It would also increase the risk of danger towards the public GMP who sworn to protect.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose a copy of the intelligence report would provide the public with a slightly more in-depth knowledge into how Greater Manchester Police operates. This would enable the populous to take steps to protect themselves against criminal activity and may lead to further information being provided to the force.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to release this information into the public domain would reveal the policing tactics of Greater Manchester Police. It would lead to individuals being more knowledgeable of information which is being recorded, which would lead to them taking actions to evade law enforcement. This would impact on the force's ability to detect and prevent crime and apprehend and prosecute offenders.

The risk of danger to the public would be increased by revealing such policing tactics into the public domain. The safety of the public we protect is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and we would not wish to jeopardise that safety by releasing exempt information into the public domain.

Balancing Test

The arguments for and against disclosure of information need to be weighed against each other. In this case the greatest argument for disclosure is the fact that the populous would be provided with information regarding how the force police operate.

However, given that the disclosure would increase the risk of increased crime to and assist those intent on committing crime to avoid detection the balance of disclosure, at this time, weighs on non-disclosure for the information requested.

This letter acts as a refusal notice for this request.