

Date: 19/08/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013050/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013050/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/08/2024 received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Why have the 2 individuals involved in attacking the police at Manchester airport not been arrested for assault and or affray?***
- 2. If the incident is still be investigated, when is this likely to be concluded?***

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 GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the 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 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 seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

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

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about the investigations however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to investigations that remain ongoing may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Whilst these investigations might be seen as high profile by some, to disclose any details may still hinder the process needed to be followed.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to 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.

Further Information

Updates are published on GMP's website. Please follow the links below for further information:

[Updating following a thorough review of further information | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](#)

[GMP opens Public Portal in appeal for further information about events leading up to footage filmed in Manchester Airport Terminal Two | Greater Manchester Police](#)

[Update on incident at Manchester Airport | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](#)