



Date: 28/11/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013570/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013570/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

In relation to this 2021 ruling in the Family court High Court Judgment Template

which provided information regarding an ongoing investigation by Greater Manchester Police into persons employed by Radox who allegedly engaged in activities involving data manipulation in criminal cases.

Please could you provide the current status of the investigation:

- (1) whether any charges have been brought*
- (2) if so what were the charges*
- (3) whether the investigation has been dropped or remains live after 7 years of investigations*

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 requested information is exempt under **Section 22(1)(a) – Information Intended for Future Publication**.

GMP will issue a public statement on our website on this issue on Friday 29/11/2024.

As Section 22(1)(a) is a qualified exemption a public interest test needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds. Therefore, the stance at this time is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.

In accordance with the S17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.