

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013640/L

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Friday, 29 November 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013640/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/11/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

I am particularly interested in custody and its staffing levels.

- 1. Please could I request the capacity of each custody suite.*
- 2. How many custody Sgt you have per suite (total)*
- 3. How many detention officers per suite (total)*
- 4. And minimum staffing requirements per suite*

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.

Part 1

- North Manchester – 30 Cells
- Swinton – 30 Cells (plus holding areas x2)
- Ashton – 30 Cells (plus holding areas x 2)
- Cheadle – 34 Cells (plus holding areas x 2)
- Bolton – 18 Cells (plus holding areas x 2)
- Wigan – 29 Cells (plus holding areas x 2)
- Pendleton – 30 Cells (plus holding areas x 2)
- Bury – 24 Cells (plus holding areas x 2)

Parts 2 to 4

The information requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement**

Sections 31 requires Harm and Public Interest Test, which can be found below.

Overall Harm:

Disclosing the staffing grades and numbers in each unit would compromise law enforcement strategies and tactics and could hinder any future investigations giving those with intent on harm using this information for disrupting policing. Greater Manchester Police has a duty to protect both witnesses and suspects of criminal investigations and releasing information that may or may not show a weakness in staffing capacity in certain areas could place the public and officers at risk.

Public Interest Test

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure - Section 31 Law Enforcement

Disclosing this information would promote transparency, accountability and promote trust within the public of where and how staffing levels and funds are used.

Public interest considerations favouring non-disclosure - Section 31 Law Enforcement

Disclosing this information would compromise law enforcement processes and would release sensitive operational information in current use by officers into the public domain and would enable those with intent to commit crime or evade justice. Any release of tactical information could harm Greater Manchester Police abilities to keep the public and police officers safe.

Balance Test

The release of this information would indicate the forces capabilities and placing this information into the public domain would identify any perceived weaknesses in Custody activity.

With this in mind we consider that factors favouring non-disclosure of the requested information, regarding Parts 2, 3 and 4 outweighs the considerations favouring disclosure.