

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012026/R

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Tuesday, 20 February 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012026/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/01/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Do you have a published/unpublished policies on how you engage with Online Child Abuse Gangs (OCAGs)? If yes, please can you provide a link?*
- 2. Are mental capacity tests used to assess the capacity of the accused to understand the nature of an offence in the event of OCAG activity leading to arrest?*
- 3. Do you have a policy for recording, processing, and validating evidence provided from OCAGs? If yes, please can you provide a link?*
- 4. Do you provide policing staff with any training around engaging with and making use of evidence from OCAGs?*
- 5. Do you provide any training on working with suspects with learning difficulties?*

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.

1. We do not have the policy but Procedure for Online Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Activist Groups (OCAG).
2. If an accused is arrested then they typically end up in the Custody suite. As part of this they will undergo several assessments and this includes a discussion with them around their mental health. Mental capacity tests in a traditional sense are not conducted prior to arrest.
3. There is no review of evidence provided from OCAGs other than by the officers' in question's supervision as part of normal crime governance arrangements.

4. No
5. Vulnerable suspects and witnesses are discussed in crime training packages for Detectives. This is generic and forms part of Appropriate Adult considerations.