



Date: 06/03/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012117/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012117/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/02/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *Is your force currently delivering formal or informal training in handling domestic abuse cases?*

If yes,

2. *What does the current training consist of? Please provide details of the following.*
 - *I would like to request all course material delivered in the training, such as papers, exercises and powerpoints.*

If any material is protected under copyright I would instead like the title, author or similar.

3. *Does your training go through scenarios with different genders as the perpetrators/victims? Or does the training have another element of gendered focus?*
4. *How many hours or days will the training take?*
5. *How regularly do you give this training? And how regularly are staff offered or provided with this training in their careers?*
6. *Is it online or in person?*

7. *Is it individual or in groups, if the latter how big are the groups then?*
8. *Is it mandatory? Is it assessed? And can you fail the training? If yes, will it have any consequences if a staff member fails? And how many have failed the last year?*
9. *Who delivers the training?*
10. *Is it external organisations, like SafeLives? If not, is the training done by internal staff and if that is the case, what are their qualifications? Please provide a list of organisations that have carried out training in the last 10 years.*
11. *Are members of staff actively offered the training, or will they apply for it themselves?*
12. *If it is offered, then what members of staff is it offered to?*
13. *How long have you been providing this, or similar, training? In the last 10 years, have there been any significant changes in how you provide this training, for who and by who? Please provide details of any changes.*
14. *Do you track the completion and impact of the training? If yes, how?*
15. *Please, can you tell me how many staff members have received and finished the training each year since 2015?*
16. *If your force is not offering training, do they signpost knowledge about domestic abuse in another capacity? (Online, from other organisations and so on.)*
17. *If your force is not offering training, can you please explain what the reasoning behind this is?*

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, but I am not obliged to provide all of it as an 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 information requested in questions 2-15 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement**

Section 31 is a prejudice-based and qualified exemption. There is a requirement to articulate the harm in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information on training courses for Police Officers could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide

and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on an operational team or officer or avoiding that team for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not). Providing details of training provides opportunities for criminality to benefit, or for risks to be extended to members of the public.

Public Interest Test Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of training Police Officers receive to recognise and investigate domestic violence and domestic abuse. It will also show accountability that public funds are being spent appropriately.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

The Police Service exists to protect and serve the general public through the prevention and detection of crime, which includes domestic violence and domestic abuse. To provide such information at force level, it could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder GMP's ability to successfully investigate domestic violence and domestic abuse crimes. The threat of crimes will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of criminals gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the forces. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify different levels of training regarding different officers and target and exploit this resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

The safety of the public is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect and place individuals at risk.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. However, this needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime and protecting the people and communities we serve.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

The answers to the rest of your request is below:

1. Yes

Questions 2-15 are exempt under S30(1)(a), see above

16. Not applicable

17. Not applicable