

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012141/T

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Friday, 08 March 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012141/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/02/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

On page 145 of 'An inspection of vetting, misconduct, and misogyny in the police service' published by HMICFRS it states:

"The Counter-Corruption (Intelligence) APP lists 12 categories of corruption-related intelligence. It is good practice for forces to use these categories when recording intelligence. All forces should do this consistently to help them understand the threats they face."

The categories are listed on page 146:

*"• infiltration;
• disclosure of information;
• perverting the course of justice;
• sexual misconduct;
• controlled drug use and supply;
• theft and fraud;
• misusing force systems;
• abuse of authority;
• inappropriate association;
• vulnerability;
• commit, incite, aid, and abet, or assist an offender in the commission of, a crime; and • other [corruption-related intelligence not categorised elsewhere]."*

1. For the year 2022/23, please provide the figures recorded in each of the 12 categories.

2. If you do not use these categories, please provide details of the categories you use and related figures for 2022/23.

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.

The request has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – 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.

Harm

Disclosures made under the Act are published by Greater Manchester Police, placing them into the public domain. Should the force release a breakdown of the corruption related intelligence recorded in financial year 2022/23, this would make available to those that are either corrupt, would seek to corrupt police employees or engage in criminal or inappropriate/unethical conduct, with details of Greater Manchester Police intelligence picture in this area. This information would assist persons that seek to commit criminal offences or engage in inappropriate/unethical conduct to continue to do so. This would hinder the ability of the police to prevent and/or detect crime or apprehend or prosecute offenders, contrary to the public interest.

It should also be noted that disclosures under the Act can appear innocuous but when pieced together with other disclosures under the Act, published material and/or information gleaned about police counter-corruption work, can be used in a 'mosaic' way to create a picture for those wishing to commit offences.

Public Interest Test

Considerations Favouring Disclosure - Greater Manchester Police is a public authority and is ultimately accountable to the general public. When any request for information is made to the police, it is important that the force are transparent, where possible, in responding to that request for information. Disclosing a breakdown of corruption related intelligence recorded in financial year 2022/23, would reinforce our commitment to greater openness and transparency with the general public.

Greater Manchester Police is granted extraordinary powers in preventing and detecting crime. There is a very clear public interest in providing as much information about the way in which the force ensures that its employees maintain the highest standards of professionalism and

integrity. Release of the requested information would accordingly facilitate informed public debate.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure - Police intelligence is an essential tool that enables the police to prevent and detect crime and apprehend those responsible for committing offences. In this context of corruption related intelligence, this information is pivotal in identifying those who are corrupt, seek to corrupt police employees, or otherwise engage in criminal or inappropriate/unethical conduct.

Balance test

When considering whether the release of information is in the public interest, I have to consider whether the public interest is in favour of releasing information into the public domain or whether there is sufficient reason to support withholding the requested information. Having considered your request, I accept that there is a public interest in openness and transparency when any request is made for police information. I also accept that there is a public interest in the release of information about the intelligence Greater Manchester Police recorded in the area of corruption, given the extraordinary powers granted powers to police in society.

The public interest favouring release must be balanced against any associated risk and/or prejudice that would be caused by disclosure. Having carefully considered this, I have found that corruption related intelligence is an important tool available to police in identifying those that are corrupt, seek to corrupt police employees or otherwise engage in criminal or inappropriate/unethical conduct. The public provision of the detail of the intelligence, even in category form, would be likely to assist persons that seek to commit criminal offences or engage in inappropriate/unethical conduct to continue to do so. This would hinder the ability of the force to prevent and/or detect crime or apprehend offenders, contrary to the public interest.

Having carefully considered your request, I have found that the public interest remains in ensuring that Greater Manchester Police is able to withhold information that would hinder its ability to root out the corrupt, those that seek to corrupt police employees or otherwise engage in inappropriate/unethical conduct. The information requested is therefore refused for this reason.

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to this request, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of **Section 23(5) Information Supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies**.

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case. Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom

of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.