

Date: 06/03/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012048/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012048/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/01/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

On 13th January 2024, it was widely reported that the NPCC has withdrawn its policy and guidance agreed previously at an NPCC meeting on 9/10 December 2021 dealing with the ability of officers to self-identify as the opposite sex and conduct searches that are 'same sex' only under the provisions of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The NPCC stated at this time, that forces would revert to their own local policies.

I specifically seek to know;

1. Whether this force has also withdrawn the NPCC policy above and on what date it did so.

2. In respect to searches exceeding the most basic search of outer clothing, commonly referred to as more thorough searches, strip searches or intimate searches, please advise whether this force permits any searching to be conducted by an officer of the opposite sex.

For clarity, "sex" here means biological / physical sex, regardless of how the officer identifies, whether by way of a Gender Recognition Certificate or via verbal self-identification.

3. If this force is still permitting such opposite sex searching to continue, which officer has made that decision. Please also identify the rank of the officer.

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 that some of the information requested is held by GMP.

Question 1 – Yes January 2024.

Question 2 - GMPs approach in light of the NPCC current ongoing review is to manage the issues on a case-by-case bases, ensuring it is conducted with the utmost sensitivity, respect, and dignity for those involved, this is the current policy while a review is presently being conducted by GMP.

Question 3 – No information held.