

Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011812/K

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Tuesday, 02 January 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011812/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/12/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information relating to details held by your force concerning the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

- 1. Do the information systems used by your force have special tags or markers to indicate suspicions or indicators of modern slavery and/or human trafficking ?*
- 2. Does your force have a crime registra spoc monitoring the quality or crime reports generated within the force relating to modern slavery and human trafficking ?*
- 3. What is the average lifetime of a modern slavery and/or human trafficking investigation within your force ?*
- 4. Between January 2023 and December 2023 how many modern slavery and/or human trafficking records are logged within your system (intel, public reporting, crime reports etc) of which how many have been allocated to an investigating officer and a case file generated ? and of those closed what are the 2 highest recorded closing codes ?*
- 5. Of that number how many are live modern slavery investigations today (15th of December 2023) and of those how many victims does that relate to?*

For the purpose of this request we are considering an investigation to be as defined by the college of policing as an investigation conducted by police officers/civilian investigators with a view to it being ascertained whether a person should be charged with an offence, or whether a person charged with an offence is awaiting trial.

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 some of the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. We do not hold the records on average lifetime. If the manual calculations required from crime record data, this would exceed the cost limit.
4. We do not hold the data until the end of the year when the request submitted on 20/12/23. Please resubmit your request again at later dates. I have provided some information below

Out of crimes recorded for modern slavery as at 18/12/23 that are closed, the 2 highest recorded closing codes are:

- a) Outcome 18 - Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available
- b) Outcome 15 - Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.

5. The information is exempt by the virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities**

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure on Section 30

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure on Section 30

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to 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. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to full and correct conclusions.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case, and the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.