

Date: 3rd January 2024
Our ref: FOI/23/011768/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/23/011768/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/12/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I am requesting all information that Your force hold in relation to Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Aerial Phenomena sightings for the period 1st January 2023 to the 4 December 2023. This includes all reports made by members of the public or employees of Your force mentioning UFOs, UAPs, lights in the sky, aliens or extra-terrestrial beings.

This information should include date, time, location and the description given by the reporting person. No personal information of such witnesses should not be included.

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. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information as exemption applies.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains ROCs (records of contact) with a ROC date between 01/01/2023 and 04/12/2023 where the title, details or contact comments contains 'UFO', 'unidentified flying object', 'alien', 'UAP', 'unidentified aerial phenomena', 'lights in the sky', or 'extra-terrestrial being', excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.

- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request. [e.g.] 'the occupant cannot play music.
- The contact comments contain sensitive information and have been redacted before the data is released.

Please note the above search has returned 158 incidents. I have then conducted a manual review to determine which incidents are relevant to this request. The manual review returned 10 incidents.

Where redaction have been made below, shown by "XXX", this relates to Section 40(2) Personal Information, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Contact Comments
INFT REPORTING SAW A UFO LAST NIGHT FROM GARDEN. ADVISED NOT A POLICE MATTER
INF REPORTING THAT THERE IS MASSIVE UFO IN THE SKY NEAR XXX. INF STATES THAT ITS MAKING A LOT OF NOISE. XXX
XXX HAS COME ON THE LINE TO SAY THERE HAS BEEN AN ALIEN INVASION XXX
XXX THAT THEY HAS SEEN ALIENS CLIMBING THROUGH WALLS XXX
Inft states XXX is refusing to leave and is saying "there is an alien"
XXX STATES THAT THERE IS ALIENS IN HIS HOUSE - XXX
XXX SAYING THERE HAVE BEEN ALIEN ATTACKS ON XXX
XXX has seen lights go "Swoosh" in the sky and wanted to report it. Advised this is not a Police Issue. XXX
XXX reporting that XXX is seeing aliens and thinks people have been replaced by aliens. XXX
XXX REPORTING WHITE DOTS IN THE SHAPED IN CIRCLE THEN TRIANGLE IN THE SKY THEN IT WENT

Due to the low numbers returned any further information including the date, time and location of each incident has been exempted from disclosure under Section 40(2) Personal Information – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.