

**Date:** 11/01/2024  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/23/011815/N

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011815/N**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/12/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*I am interested in data regarding the illegal streaming of sports in the UK.*

*For your police force, I would like to know:*

- 1. How many people were cautioned for viewing illegal streams in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?*
- 2. How many people were given penalty notices for viewing illegal streams in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?*
- 3. How many people were arrested for viewing illegal streams in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?*
- 4. How many people were cautioned for distributing / supplying illegal streaming services in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?*
- 5. How many people were given penalty notices for distributing / supplying illegal streaming services in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?*
- 6. How many people were arrested for distributing / supplying illegal streaming services in the years of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023?*
- 7. For questions 4, 5 & 6, how many people were supplying illegal streams digitally?*
- 8. For questions 4, 5, & 6, how many people were supplying illegal streams through 'dodgy boxes' / 'firesticks'?*

### **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'm not obliged to provide the data for **question 7** as an exemption applies, please see the information below.

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 exemption that applies is **Section 30(1)(a)(b)(c)** – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

**Section 30(1)(a)(b)(c)** is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

#### **Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure**

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show Greater Manchester Police's accountability. It would also show Greater Manchester Police's use of public funds in continuing to investigate such a high-profile crime.

#### **Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure**

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information from an investigation that is still ongoing and remains open may prejudice that criminal investigation and seriously undermine Greater Manchester Police's ability to complete it to a full and correct conclusion.

It would also have an impact on the future law enforcement capabilities of Greater Manchester Police, as it would disclose policing investigative techniques, thus hindering any future prevention or detection of crime.

#### **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 reasons for non-disclosure which is concerns for the health and safety, both mental and physical, of family and friends of the victims and protecting future law enforcement capabilities

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case, 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.

**Please see the remaining responses below.**

1. 0
2. 0
3. 0
4. 2 in 2021.
5. 0
6. 2 in 2021, 1 in 2022.
7. See Exemption above.

8. 0

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