

Date: 1st July 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012827/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/012827/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask whether machine learning is used by Greater Manchester Police to assess an individual's risk of committing or being victim to an offense. Individual risk assessment using algorithms is a subset of predictive policing.

For clarity on the machine learning systems that I mean, here are examples of such systems used by other police forces:

- ***Durham Police used a tool called the Harm Assessment Risk Tool (HART) to classify people arrested on suspicion of an offence as high, medium or low risk of committing a crime in future. To make the assessment, data was provided by Experian.***
- ***Avon and Somerset Police use a program called "Qlik Sense", with 30 applications across various police teams. Machine learning is used to identify an individual's likelihood of re-offending, likelihood of victimisation and vulnerability, likelihood of being reported missing, likelihood of perpetrating a "serious domestic violence or sexual violent offence", likelihood of being the victim of a "serious domestic violence or sexual violent offence", likelihood of perpetrating a burglary offence and likelihood of perpetrating a stalking and harassment offence.***

The information that I'm requesting is as follows:

1. ***Please disclose the details of machine learning systems currently used by Greater Manchester Police to assess an individual's risk of committing or being victim to an offense.***
 2. ***Please disclose the details of any such programme which is currently in beta testing.***
- The details that I am looking for are:***

- a. *Whether the software was provided by an external provider (if so, name them) or created by Greater Manchester Police.*
- b. *How individuals are selected to be profiled by the machine learning programme.*
- c. *The purpose of the programme, i.e. what action is taken by Greater Manchester Police on the basis of predictions made by the programme.*
- d. *Which data about an individual is used by the programme to make the prediction.*
- e. *Whether the data about an individual used to make a prediction has been collected or generated by the police, or is commercially sourced.*
- f. *Documentation of any impact assessments, safety testing or accuracy testing of the programme.*

If to provide this information would trigger the cost exemption, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will refine the request. If this request is unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under FOIA, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct us to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

I understand that you may redact exempted information in documents, but ask that you show where redactions have been made and give the justification. I also kindly remind you that the time taken for redactions does not usually contribute towards the cost cap under FOIA.

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 not held by GMP.

GMP does not use any machine learning.