

**Date:** 23/07/2024  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/24/012966/A

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012966/A**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/07/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***I would like to know what the official policy is of Greater Manchester Police of officers wearing the thin blue line badge .  
This is also known as the badge of honour. In my opinion this is. vandalism of the Union Flag.***

**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.

GMP do not have a specific policy for this request.

Please see below an extract from the “Uniform and Dress Standards Policy” in relation to badges.

**5.2.2.6 Charity Pins and Badges**

- *Whilst you may wear a pin or badge on your shirt, you will take personal responsibility for any health or safety issues that may arise. Such pins must not be worn on body armour as they may puncture the panel and compromise its level of protection. Pins must not be worn on epaulettes.*
- *If you choose to wear a pin or badge, you are reminded of your duty to remain politically impartial and the need to adhere to our Standards of Professional Behaviour.*

**5.2.3 Velcro patches or identifying badges**

*In certain operational situations there may be a reason to wear an identifying patch to signify membership to an operational unit or the specific functionality of the wearing officer e.g. firearms wear the velcro patch of red asterisk. It is on this basis that velcro patches are permitted were there are clear operational reasons, purchase and supply will be via Business Support Services Stores.*

- *Other Velcro patches that have no authorised operational function code or symbol and are not police related but are linked to specific dates, celebrations or memorials are not permitted without clear authorisation from District/Branch Commanders.*
- *These will be assessed on a case basis and wearing may be restricted to a particular timeframe e.g. wearing of the remembrance poppy during November.*
- *It is not appropriate for officers and staff to purchase Velcro patches and wear these upon their uniform if they do not satisfy either of the above requirements.*