

Date: 22/07/2024

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012962/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012962/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/07/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

What were the nationalities of the 3 people involved in a stabbing incident in Wigan town centre on Thursday 18th July 2024. For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to know the nationality of the 2 men that media have published were arrested by police following the attack, and also the nationality of the victim who was apparently stabbed whilst the incident was recorded on several bystander's mobile phones.

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 supply this information held as an exemption applies. The request is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 30(1) – 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.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details of information not already provided in the press brief, 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 in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is related to investigations that remain open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete those investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.