

Date: 21st June 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012699/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/012699/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/05/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- Q1 - How many police and support staff hours have been spent investigating the allegations made by James Daly against Angela Rayner?***
Q2 - What is the cost in Pounds Sterling of this investigation?
Q3 - Did James Daly contact GMP as a private individual, as a Member of Parliament, or as an officer of the Conservative Party?
Q4 - Did James Daly make contact by post, email, or another means?
If by post, was this done on House of Commons or Conservative Party headed paper?
If by email, was this by a House of Commons or a Conservative Party address?
Q5 - Has any officer or employee of GMP been contacted by Richard Holden MP about this investigation?
Q6 - Has any officer or employee of GMP been contacted by any other person about this investigation?

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format or centrally on a reporting system.

Question 1 – To determine the number of police officers which have contributed to the Angela Rayner investigation would require us to manually contact all officers. If they have contributed, we would then need the officer to confirm how much time they have spent on the investigation. As working on

investigations is part of their duties as GMP officers this information cannot be guaranteed and therefore will not be accurate.

Question 2 – To determine the cost of the Angela Rayner investigation would firstly require us to have the accurate amount of officers and time spent. We would then need to manually review all individual officers' personal records for pay details to manually calculate the total cost.

Question 5 – To determine if any GMP employees have been directly contact by Richard Holden would require manually contacting all GMP employees to conduct a search of their own individual records to check if any correspondence has been received.

As such due to the extent of the searches required it is anticipated to exceed the 18 hour cost limit.

Therefore, as per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

However, in accordance with Section 16(1) – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1 – Exempt section 12. Please see above.

Question 2 – Exempt section 12. Please see above.

Question 3 – No information held. This is an invalid question under the FOIA. We can only provide information held by the force and not opinions.

Question 4 – Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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 which applies to question 4 of this request is:

Section 41(1)(a)(b) – Information provided to a public authority in confidence.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

Question 5 – Exempt section 12. Please see above.

Question 6 – Yes.