

Date: 21st June 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012819/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/012819/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/06/24, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please accept this request under the Freedom of Information Act. I'm seeking copies of the following Information Sharing Agreements, details of which were provided in your response to my previous FOI request (ref 01/FOI/24/012530/C):

- *Bolton Overarching Information Sharing Agreement*
- *Greater Manchester Victims' Service*
- *Horizon Threat Scanning*
- *Inter-Agency Information Sharing Protocol*
- *ISA between General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, ACPO and the CPS*
- *Liverpool City Council*
- *Manchester Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)*
- *Manchester Serious Offenders Panel*
- *MAPPa ISA*
- *RAC - sharing GMP images with retail sector*
- *Salford University Information Sharing Agreement*
- *University of Salford - Safety and Security of Students and others*

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 provide the information requested as exemption applies.

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 to this request are:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

Disclosure of specific Information Sharing Agreements would be disclosing tactical information which may cause considerable harm to policing, regardless of whether the agreement is for current policing needs or past. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing and providing assurance that the Police Service is appropriately and effectively sharing information, this should be counted against the need to protect areas, ongoing policing activities and policing tactics.

Public Interest Test

Section 31 – Factors Favouring Disclosure

There may be a public interest in the release of specific Information Sharing Agreements because it may reassure the public that there are effective processes in place which GMP follow. It would also show GMPs accountability and transparency in who and what information they share.

Section 31 – Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release Information Sharing Agreements which include policing tactics utilised by the police today would hinder the forces capabilities. Therefore, disclosure would ultimately undermine policing and result in new tactics needing to be developed and employed.

The risk of danger to the public would be increased by revealing policing tactics into the public domain. The safety of the public we protect is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and we would not wish to jeopardise that safety by releasing tactical information into the public domain.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to 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, which needs to be weighed against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure, which in this case is the likelihood of individuals being put at risk and law enforcement tactics being compromised. The safety of the communities GMP police is of paramount importance and the Force would not detrimentally impact on that safety by disclosing harmful information in response to a FOI request.

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