



Date: 16/05/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012511/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012511/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/04/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

REQUEST 1

A statutory code of practice for the recording of 'non-crime hate incidents' became law in June 2023 under sections 60 and 61 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. Please give details of the training you provide to officers and staff to ensure that the recording and investigation of NCHIs only take place when the threshold set out in the code is met.

REQUEST 2

The statutory code of practice for the recording of 'non-crime hate incidents' requires that NCHI records holding personal data must use the terms 'subject' and 'complainant' (not 'suspect' and 'victim'). Have your incident and crime recording systems been updated to use the required wording in the context of NCHIs, and is the correct terminology in current use in your force?

REQUEST 3

Please specify the number of 'non-crime hate incidents' recorded by your force for the year prior to the introduction of the statutory code as well as the numbers from June 2023 (since the introduction of the code) to the present date.

REQUEST 4

Are you associated with Stonewall? If yes, please specify your membership or advisory level, e.g. Workplace Champions Scheme, and all annual costs related to such membership or provision of advice.

REQUEST 5

In the interests of viewpoint diversity and inclusion, what staff association or internal forum do you have in place which specifically supports and encourages officers and staff who hold legally protected 'gender-critical' views?

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, but I am not obliged to provide all of it as an exemptions apply. 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 information requested in Request 1 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement**. Section 31 is a prejudice-based and qualified exemption. There is a requirement to articulate the harm in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information on training courses for Police Officers could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on an operational team or officer or avoiding that team for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not). Providing details of training provides opportunities for criminality to benefit, or for risks to be extended to members of the public.

Public Interest Test Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of training Police Officers receive concerning hate crimes and hate incidents. It will also show accountability and that public funds are being spent appropriately.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

The Police Service exists to protect and serve the public through the prevention and detection of crime. To provide such information at force level, it could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder GMP's ability to successfully investigate crimes. The threat of crime will increase as more crimes are committed because of criminals gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the forces. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify different levels of training regarding different officers and target and exploit this resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring. The safety of the public is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect and place individuals at risk.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. However, this needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime and protecting the people and communities we serve. Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

The information requested in requests 3, 4 and 5 is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**.

Regarding request 3, GMP publish our hate crime statistics on our website. [The information you have requested can be found here.](#)

Regarding requests 4 and 5, this issue has been addressed in previous Freedom of Information requests and is available through our publication scheme. Please see [here](#) for request 4 and [here](#) for request 5.

The information you requested in request 2 is not exempt and is provided below.

Request 2: The following is an excerpt from the guidance for recording non-crime incidents perceived by the reporting person to be motivated by hostility:

“When recording a non-crime incident, call takers should always use non-crime terminology for the parties involved, such as complainant, reporting person, involved person (**do not** use victim, witness or suspect).”