



Date: 18/11/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013350/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013350/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. If clothing, specifically underwear, is cut off the detained person during a strip search, what is the correct procedure for storage of the clothing and its eventual return to the individual if they are released without charge.*
- 2. Please provide me with the details of that procedure.*
- 3. If the clothing is disposed of or destroyed, what would be the grounds for doing that.*
- 4. Is a record kept showing that the clothing was disposed of or destroyed, and is the individual informed of that. If not, why not.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

1. Section 54 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) provides that a custody officer shall ascertain what property a person has when detained at a Police Station. PACE Codes of Practice (Code C) Paragraph 4.1(b) directs that the custody officer is responsible for the safekeeping of any property taken from a detained person, (unless retained for evidential purposes) the property will be returned once the person is released from custody/transferred to another place e.g court, hospital, prison. If property (clothing in the circumstances) is removed from a person for evidential

reasons this will be retained in accordance with Criminal Procedure Investigations Act 1996 (CPIA).

2. See above.
3. If not seized for evidential reasons, agreement with the owner for destruction which would be recorded on the custody record along with signature from the owner on a property disclaimer form, otherwise the property must be returned. If any evidential property is seized from a detainee whilst in custody (including clothing) then the OIC/CSI will package and exhibit this and book it into the Evidential Property Store. The OIC is then responsible for reviewing the evidence in line with CPIA including the decision making around whether it is suitable to return to the owner or disposed of. The latter would normally be when the item is unsuitable/illegal to return i.e. for clothing this could be due to the presence of bodily fluids etc. The OIC can also request that the owner signs a disclaimer.
4. This would be recorded on the relevant custody record. In relation to clothing that has been seized for evidential purposes then the evidential property management system would contain a record of all movements relating to the item from the point of seizure to disposal. It would be the choice of the OIC to inform the owner if the item has been destroyed or disposed of.