

Date: 1st November 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013365/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013365/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I have revised my request.

1) Did GMP provide a basic or comprehensive reference to First Choice Homes Oldham?

2) Does GMP consider the role/ is aware of the role the individual has applied for when providing a reference?

3) If an GMP is under investigation, would GMP disclose this in a reference?

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.

Question 1

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 40(5)(b)(i) - Personal Information – giving information to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

To confirm that any information is held or not, could confirm personal data. In some circumstances confirming or denying whether information is held could itself identify a living individual and would therefore breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

This use of neither confirm nor deny should not be taken as proof that such information does or does not exist.

Question 2

GMP may be aware of the role (if the person requesting the reference supplies it) but GMP issues a standard factual response using an internal template (i.e. dates of employment) which is not personalised to the role or the request.

Question 3

The unit who issues references would not know that the employee was under investigation.