



Date: 01/10/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013072/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013072/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/08/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The cost of instructing [REDACTED] Solicitors in 4 claims of Judicial Review against the GMP Chief Constable. AC-2024-MAN-000277 (JR/49634).

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold any information in relation to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act does not apply by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 42(2) – Legal Professional Privilege.**

As Section 42 is a qualified and class-based exemption, there is a requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial

Confirmation or denial of the existence of the information would promote openness and transparency.

Factors Against Confirming or Denial

The purpose of legal professional privilege is to guarantee the professional relationship between lawyer and client which goes to serve the wider administration of justice.

Balancing Test

The release of information under Freedom of Information (FOI) is a release into the public domain and not just to the individuals requesting the information. Once information is disclosed under FOI there is no control or limits as to who or how the information is shared with other individuals, therefore a release under FOI is considered a disclosure to the world in general.

Confirmation or denial of whether Greater Manchester Police hold this information would amount to a release of information either on this occasion or on other occasions where a similar request is made. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of any information recorded by the police, there is also a strong public interest in maintaining confidence in GMP with regards to its handling of information. The existence of information should not be confirmed or denied if to do so would likely have a detrimental effect on judicial proceedings. It is for these reasons that the public interest must favour neither confirming nor denying that the requested information is held.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.