

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013344/G

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 21 October 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013344/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/09/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST | RESPONSIBLE PERSONS FOR FIRE SAFETY COMPLIANCE

FOI details politely requested:

- 1. Name of the Police Forces Responsible Person for Fire Safety and contact email**
- 2. Name of the contracts manager for Facilities Management (Planned and Reactive Maintenance) and contact email**
- 3. Number of buildings (including residential) under management having smoke vent and fire damper systems on them*
- 4. Guidance on how to do business with the University for agreements not published under European Tender guidelines*

** should this person have been denied for whatever reason, could you role up the request to the next Director overseeing their role as a 'Responsible Person' for Fire Safety who you are authorised to disclose, and their contact email please?*

With the threat of prohibition notices which would force the site to close its doors pending repairs for systems not operating optimally, I am keen to get my details to your extended team as a 'plan B' should existing contractors service schedule be fully booked. The Grenfel Tower disaster shows the potential should these systems not be operating as required.

Result of Searches

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

1. Chief Constable Stephen Watson
2. Exempt under S40
3. Exempt under S38
4. Exempt under S21

Contacts

General enquiries – Please use our online channel via [Contact us | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](https://gmp.police.uk)

Business interest – Please contact our Procurement team via Procurement@gmp.police.uk
Further information can be found via [Tenders and business | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](https://gmp.police.uk)

Exemptions

Part 2 - Section 40(2) Personal information

The information has been exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Part 3 – Section 38(1) - Health & Safety

Harm on Section 38

This Act provides the public with a general right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. However, information disclosed under this Act is effectively released into the public domain, or to the 'wider world', and not only to the person making the request.

To disclose the information about our buildings' fire safety systems would undoubtedly have an impact on the health and safety of individuals working in these buildings. The disclosure

could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on these buildings where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

Protecting the safety of our people and members of the public is of paramount importance to GMP and information that would compromise such health and safety would not be disclosed within a response to a Freedom of Information request.

Factors Favouring Disclosure on Section 38

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the buildings of the police force.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure on Section 38

Disclosure could provide those individuals or groups within the criminal fraternity who wish to attack the police buildings and the information could also be used to target locations perceived as less well-resourced or to develop tactics to divert resources away from locations that they wish to target.

The health and safety of individuals 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

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is concerns for the health and safety of individuals and community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

Part 4 - Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

This is because the information is already freely available at:

- Details of current contracts, that are visible for Freedom of Information, are available online through the Bluelight Police Database. A link is provided on the GMP website under About Us > Tenders and Business. The Bluelight Police Database is searchable, so you can search under category to find any relevant contracts. By clicking into each contract relevant information such as start, end dates and estimated contract value can be found.

[Tenders and business | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](https://gmp.police.uk/tenders-and-business)

- Suppliers can register free on the Bluelight e-tendering website, found at <https://sell2.intend.co.uk/blpd/home> to get access to new tender opportunities within the Emergency Services.