

Date: 26/09/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013171/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013171/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/08/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

In relation to training and guidance available to police officers.

A

What books, films, TV programmes, poems, songs, artworks and other examples artistic output has been flagged as linked to terrorism and radicalisation ?

In particular, radicalism in relation to the far-right

For example, an internal guidance document may provide a list of book linked to far-right thought

B

What internal guidance is available to staff on identifying books, films, TV programmes, poems, songs, artworks and other artistic output that could be deemed as connected to terrorism and radicalisation? Perhaps it was created by an external training provider

In particular, radicalism in relation to the far-right

For example, could guides to far-right symbolism, like the use of Nordic runes by far-right groups

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.

However, I am not obliged to provide all of it as exemption applies.

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.

Section 31(1) – Law enforcement

Harm

To provide the requested information would undermine the force policing capabilities which consequently would be detrimental to their protection against crime. By providing the level of training and detail provided to officers and the tactics used to prevent threats could provide those wishing to commit crimes with the armoury to do so. It is felt that by providing this information effects basic principles of law enforcement concerning the prevention of crime and apprehension of offenders.

Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of policework undertaken to ensure that GMP can keep the public safe from terrorism threats and would provide transparency on how public money is spent.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

To provide such information at force level, it could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder the Police force's ability to protect themselves and member of the public against crimes. The threat of crimes will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of criminals and terrorist gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the forces and therefore the public will be placed at a greater risk. Anyone intent on committing such crimes will be able to use the tactics imposed by GMP to their gain to avoid detection and/or to further commit crimes. GMP serve to protect the public and so would not disclose anything that would undermine this.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to 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. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is concerns for the health and safety of the forces police officers and wider community, law enforcement and national security.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case, 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.