

Date: 29th August 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012859/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/012859/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to learn more about the Wuhan police visit of 2019. There is plenty of material about this visit, which took place in late May/early June, online.

1. Please share the risk assessment document regarding this visit.

2. Please share a list of the titles of the visiting officials from China, IE 'Director of Investigations', or similar.

3 Please share the webpage that was formerly hosted here -->

<https://qbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gmp.police.uk%2Fnews%2Fgreater-manchester%2Fnews%2Fnews%2F2019%2Fjune%2Ftwinned-forces-unite%2F&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomOfInformation%40gmp.police.uk%7C6556fd2fd0b04a9dc6be08dc97677504%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C638551718160435841%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=k2X%2Feab%2BhddabZlvHyAz3qa%2FxrJlzG3K60giqqNOhb4%3D&reserved=0>

This was an account of the visit that appears, for some reason, to have been removed from the internet. The title appears to be 'Twinned Forces Unite'.

4 Please share the titles/ranks of the dozen GMP officers who went to Wuhan that November. Please also share the names of senior officers. Please also share the minutes of meetings that took place as part of this visit

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 the information requested as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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.

The information requested in question 1 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

To provide the risk assessment would reveal policing tactics used by GMP. This would give an advantage to individuals intent on committing offences and avoid detection. It would also increase the risk of danger towards the public GMP who sworn to protect.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the risk assessment would provide the public with a slightly more in-depth knowledge into how GMP operates. This could lead to further information being provided to the force.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to release the requested information into the public domain would reveal policing tactics and would disclose the things GMP consider when organising international travel.

The risk of danger to the public would be increased by revealing such policing tactics into the public domain. The safety of the public we protect is of paramount importance to GMP and we would not wish to jeopardise that safety by releasing exempt information into the public domain.

Balancing Test

The arguments for and against disclosure of information need to be weighed against each other. In this case the greatest argument for disclosure is the fact that the public would be provided with information regarding how the force police operate.

However, given that the disclosure would reveal policing tactics and the information GMP consider regarding travel, as well as putting the public in danger, the balance of disclosure at this time weighs on non-disclosure for the risk assessment requested.

This letter acts as a refusal notice for question 1 of this request.

Response to remaining questions

Question 1 – Exempt. Please see above.

Question 2 – No information held.

Question 3 – Please see attached the internet page.

Where redaction occurs within the attached document, this relates to Section 40(2) Personal Information, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would 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.

Question 4 – No information held for any meeting minutes.

GMP officer ranks which attended:

- PS – 1
- Supt – 1
- PC – 3
- DC – 1
- DS – 1
- DCI – 2

The names of the officers have 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 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.



Twinned forces unite

✓ Published: 15:11 07/06/2019

On Friday 31 May fifteen police officers from the City of Wuhan Police in China, paid a visit to GMP to find out first-hand about policing in Greater Manchester.

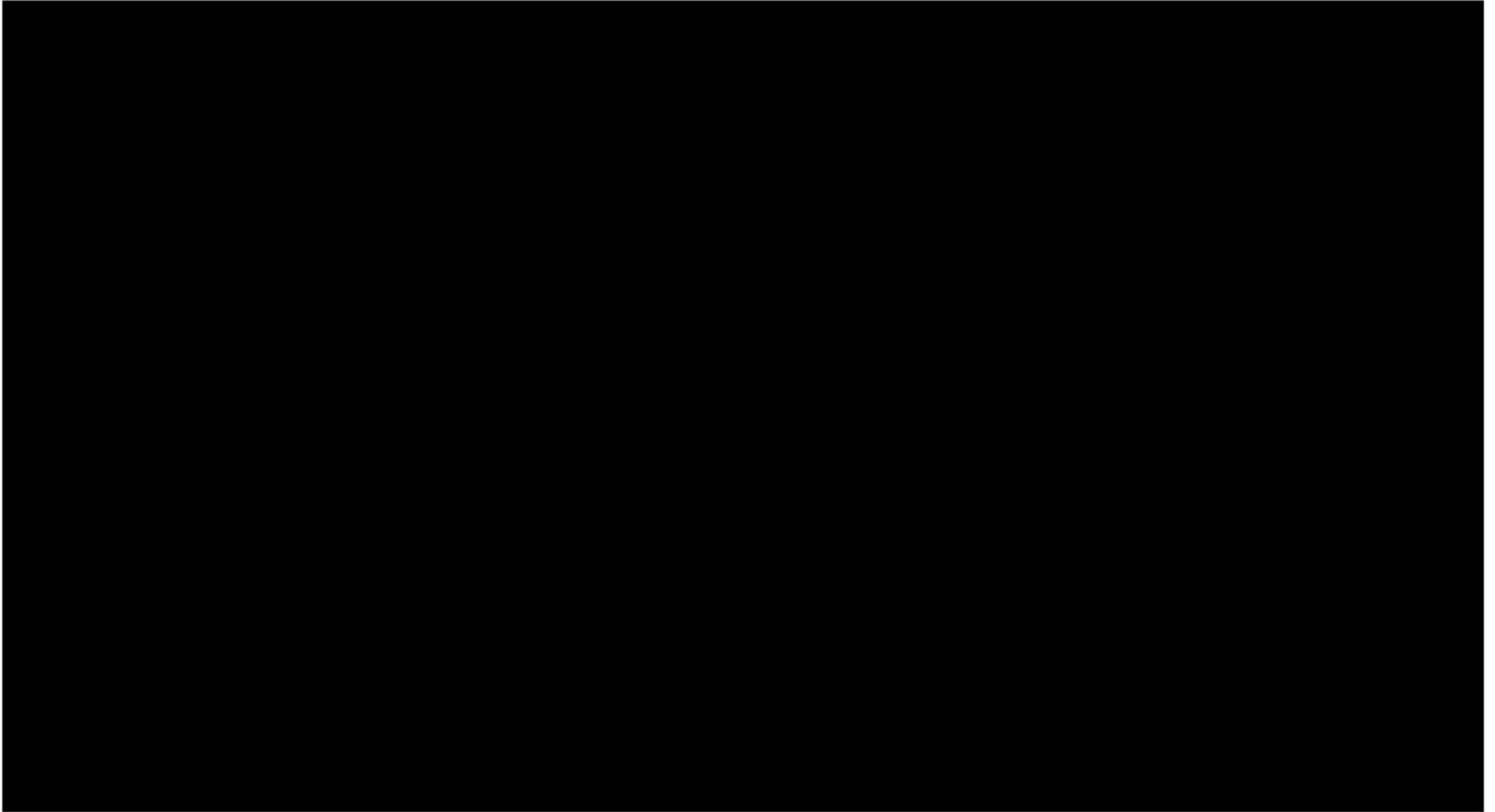
The Consulate General held a welcome party on Saturday for the visiting officers as well as members of the GMP local neighbourhood team for Chinatown and the GMP Dragon Boat Racing team.

After sizing up the competition at the welcome party, both the GMP and Wuhan Police teams took part in the Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday 2nd June at Salford Quays which was beamed live back to millions of viewers in China by China Central Television . The competition has been won by team GMP for a number of years and after a hard fought race the Wuhan Team were victorious with GMP in second place.

The Wuhan Team were invited to Force HQ on Monday 3rd July where they heard inputs on UK policing, GMP neighbourhood policing and how we police large events.

Manchester and Wuhan have been twinned cities since 1986, and the visit was an opportunity to enhance our relationship with our Chinese counterparts and promote law enforcement cooperation between the two cities.

The City of Wuhan Police has 18,000, consisting of 25 divisions and 16 sub-bureaus and 248 police stations. Their training facility is also base for the Chinese national public security police training and the China-EU police training.



Consulate General [REDACTED] who was instrumental to the visit commented- "Thanks to the meticulous arrangement made by GMP over the past months, Wuhan police delegation's visit was made a great success. Their visit has started a new chapter in Manchester-Wuhan policing cooperation and will be highly conducive to cementing the sister relationship between the two cities for the benefit of both citizens."