



Date: 05/09/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013079/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013079/I

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

*I expected you to put on a better effort. The job is tough, a lot has been asked of you but In spite of all that is happening around us a greater effort is expected.
Some of the issues are:*

- 1. How much money were spent on these riots? (for example officers were sent to assist other forces and the pay and injuries) and etc. You need to work out the costs.*
- 2. You do take emergency calls. How many I grades calls (emergency calls) did you miss?. What this means is that the force policy is to attend immediate calls (emergency 999) within 10 minutes. Between 2010 - 2024 you have missed (by being late).*
- 3. I need to know how many officers or units are in place for riots and disorder? (DO YOU HAVE A SPECIALIST UNIT in place)?.*

I need this information to see if the force has sufficient resources to protect the public and not to encounter problems in the future. My argument is that we lack Police officers on the streets. We need thousands more in each and every force to do better to protect the country. More investment is needed in the Police.

I want GMP and Greater Manchester public to be safe, secure and HAPPY. CRIMINALS and disorder can no longer be tolerated.

*Greater Manchester area. 2010 - 2024.
Also 25 July 2024 and August 2024.*

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 supply you with all of the information held as exemptions apply.

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 you have requested in question 3 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.

S31(1) - Evidence of Harm

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing any further information relating to specific departments and functions within Greater Manchester Police would reveal our operational capability, which would be of intelligence value to criminals.

Disclosure of resources at the police's disposal, including public order policing capabilities will mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be able to formulate ways to circumvent or overwhelm the police. If disclosed the tactics used by GMP will become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend, or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

There is always a duty of care to the public and GMP have a clear responsibility to ensure the prevention or detection of crime, and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders is always delivered. There are several tactics available to GMP to ensure the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In this case, specialist policing activity is required to undertake fair investigations where it may be necessary to progress a range of reasonable lines of enquiry.

As such, the disclosure of any further information which would hinder the forces law enforcement functions cannot be in the public interest.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S31 - Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money. Disclosure of the requested information would enable the public to assess whether the force has appropriately taken steps

to help reduce and detect crime by such means as having public order trained officers available. Release would enhance public debate as to whether the force is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals.

Factors against disclosure for S31 - Disclosure that reveals our operational capabilities would compromise law enforcement tactics. Criminals could use the information to target areas of weakness knowing that their activities are less likely to be detected. It may be used by criminals who are intent on pursuing their criminal activity, to identify and exploit the limitations of these resources.

To release information relating to operational capacity and capability utilised for public order policing would have a detrimental effect on our policing capabilities. Therefore, to mitigate any risks, disclosure of this information needs to be protected, to ensure that those with intent to do so cannot manipulate it or undermine its purpose in any way.

Any disclosure of information which would compromise law enforcement tactics and thus lead to more crime being committed by reducing the opportunity for the prevention and detection of crime, would therefore increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balancing Test

Law enforcement is of paramount importance and GMP will not disclose information if to do so would undermine its purpose and place the safety of individuals at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money in policing appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this area.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of law enforcement, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

Questions 1 and 2 are not exempt and are addressed below.

CAVEATS

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

The data provided in response to question 2 contains incidents with a created date between 01/08/2019 and 31/07/2024, excluding incidents with a closing code of L10 Duplicate, L19 Error or L22 Test or training.

The table provided in response to question 2 shows the proportion of Grade 1 incidents that have been attended within target, the proportion attended outside of target and the proportion that have no recorded arrival and has been obtained via the Grade 1 and Grade 2 Attendance Summary Report on the performance portal.

Excluded are incidents closed as L10 - Duplicate, L19 - Cancel/Exit/Error, L22 - Test/Training.

For each incident, the attendance time is calculated as the difference between the earliest recorded arrival timestamp (where recorded), and the latest grade timestamp (where available, defaulting to the incident creation timestamp where not).

Target attendance times for grade 1 and grade 2 incidents are 15 min and 1 h, respectively.

The table provided in response to question 2 contains incident data – not every 999 call made to GMP results in a Grade 1 incident that requires an emergency response.

1. This information is not held by GMP currently. GMP are still waiting for confirmation of overtime costs, confirmation of mutual aid costs from other forces and confirmation of medical wellbeing reports to establish any ongoing costs because of injuries to officers. Please make another request at a later date to see if this information is held at that point.

2.

Grade 1 Incidents	Average attendance time ([h]:mm:ss)	Attended within target (proportion)	Attended within target	Attended outside target	No recorded arrival	Total incidents
CoM North	00:10:45	83.2%	44,342	7,397	1,547	53,286
CoM Central	00:08:24	87.8%	38,312	3,781	1,560	43,653
CoM South	00:09:39	86.4%	36,013	4,347	1,309	41,669
Salford	00:10:53	80.9%	44,167	8,603	1,851	54,621
Tameside	00:10:01	85.0%	38,178	5,250	1,497	44,925
Stockport	00:10:52	80.8%	35,007	6,642	1,651	43,300
Bolton	00:10:56	80.2%	47,759	9,807	1,960	59,526
Wigan	00:10:58	80.8%	49,507	9,870	1,892	61,269
Trafford	00:09:13	87.6%	27,430	2,889	1,004	31,323
Bury	00:09:58	84.4%	29,576	4,107	1,371	35,054
Rochdale	00:10:05	82.4%	36,181	5,862	1,854	43,897
Oldham	00:09:55	85.6%	41,913	5,610	1,429	48,952
Manchester Airport	00:05:23	92.0%	2,900	152	101	3,153
Unknown/Out of Force	00:11:22	52.9%	1,064	286	660	2,010
GMP	00:10:13	83.4%	472,349	74,603	19,686	566,638

3. Exempt under S31, see above.