



Date: 18/09/2024  
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013170/C

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013170/C**

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

*1) The number of Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs) obtained by Greater Manchester Police in the years:*

*2022-23*

*2021-22*

*2020-21*

*(ideally by calendar year but will accept financial year if needs be)*

*2) A copy of any policy on obtaining SCPOs during these years (2020-2023).  
(I am interest in the initial decision to apply for an Order)*

*3) A copy of any Key Performance Indicators or numerical targets that effect decisions to obtain SCPOs during this time (2020-2023).*

**Result of Searches**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to supply you with the information as an 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 you have requested in question 1 about the number of SCPOs granted in 2020 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**.

Where Section 40 has been used, 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. Due to the very low number of SCPOs granted in 2020 it would be possible to identify the people involved if this information was disclosed.

The information requested in question 2 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement**. Section 31 is a prejudice-based and qualified exemption. There is a requirement to articulate the harm in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

### **Evidence of Harm**

Disclosure of the information on prevention tactics could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide and enable criminals to develop evasion plans for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not). Providing details of prevention tactics provides opportunities for criminality to benefit, or for risks to be extended to members of the public.

### **Public Interest Test Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure**

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the prevention options that are open to police. It will also show accountability and that public funds are being spent appropriately.

### **Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure**

The Police Service exists to protect and serve the public through the prevention and detection of crime. To provide such information at force level could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder GMP's ability to successfully investigate crimes. The threat of crime will increase as more crimes are committed because of criminals gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the forces. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify prevention options open to the police and target and exploit this resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring. The safety of the public 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**

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police must 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. However, this needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and

detection of crime and protecting the people and communities we serve. Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, 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.

In accordance with the Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice. The remainder of the information you have requested is not exempt and is provided below.

1. 2023 – 12  
2022 – 12  
2021 – 11  
2020 – Exempt under S40, please see above.
2. Exempt under S31, please see above.
3. This information is not held by GMP. GMP do not have any Key Performance Indicators or numerical targets that effect decisions to obtain SCPOs.