

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013196/M

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number when responding

Friday, 13 September 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013196/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/08/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. How much has Greater Manchester Police spent so far on updating the crown and royal cypher in its badges, signage, printed material, and electronic media from St. Edward's Crown and the Queen's cypher to the Tudor Crown and the king's as a result of the accession of King Charles in 2022?*
- 2. How much has been budgeted to complete this update?*
- 3. And when is it expected that the Tudor Crown will have fully replaced St. Edward's Crown?*

Result of Searches

We followed the guidance as laid out in the Royal Symbol of State which says:

Organisations are advised to consider the following principles when deciding on when to implement changes:

- Organisations should adopt a low-cost approach to implementation, this means new costs should be avoided where possible.
- Organisations should start by changing digital versions of the crown. As far as possible, organisations should seek to ensure consistency of digital branding, using the Tudor Crown as soon as possible where there is no associated cost.
- It is for organisations to decide when physical depictions of the crown are updated, noting the principle of adopting a low-cost approach by, for example, only replacing items when they need to be changed due to wear and tear or in line with their normal renewal processes.

- As both versions of the crown (Tudor and St Edward's) are valid representations of royal authority, there is no objection to using two different designs simultaneously for the crown in the transition period. This follows the precedent from 1953, where changes to the St Edward's Crown for Queen Elizabeth II's reign were made over ten years.
- There may be some physical objects where it is appropriate for no change to be made. It has been common practice for more permanent fixed objects to retain depictions of previous monarchs' cyphers and/or Crowns, for example, pillar boxes that have various monarchs' cyphers dating back to Queen Victoria.
- Cabinet Office is not placing a timeline on when uses of the royal crown should be changed; it is for organisations to make decisions based on the above principles.

Therefore, we adopted a low-cost, no-cost approach, meaning there were no actual expenses incurred, nor was a budget required, as the work was completed organically without additional costs. Many products and media still feature the EIRR cypher, and updates will only be made when necessary. Since the new cypher has a similar footprint, no extra effort or resources are needed for the transition.

Lastly, there is no timeline on the replacement.