

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013228/D
Please quote our reference
number when responding

Monday, 23 September 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013228/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/09/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *Data Governance*
 - a. *Does your police force have a documented data governance framework? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *If yes, when was it last reviewed and updated?*
2. *Data Leadership*
 - a. *Is there a designated Chief Data Officer (CDO) or equivalent role within your police force? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *How many Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff are dedicated to data management and analytics? Please break this down by Data Analysts, Data Scientists, Data Engineers, Data Architects, Database Administrators & Data Leaders.*
3. *Data Quality Management*
 - a. *Does your force routinely (at least quarterly) assess the quality of its data (e.g., accuracy, completeness, timeliness)? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *What percentage of your force's critical datasets have been subject to a formal data quality assessment in the last year?*
4. *Data Strategy*
 - a. *Is there a data strategy aligned with your force's broader organizational strategy? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *Please provide the year when the data strategy was first implemented and any subsequent revisions. Please also provide the strategy document if available.*
5. *Data Literacy*
 - a. *Has your force implemented any formal data literacy programs or training for staff? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *What percentage of your staff have completed data literacy training in the last 12 months?*

6. *Data Infrastructure and Technology*
 - a. *What data management platforms or tools does your force use (e.g., data warehouses, ETL tools, analytics platforms)?*
 - b. *Does your force have a cloud strategy for data storage and processing? (Yes/No)*
7. *Data Sharing and Integration*
 - a. *To what extent does your force share data with other forces and public sector bodies? (Scale: None, Limited, Extensive)*
 - b. *Does your force have standardized protocols for data integration between internal systems? (Yes/No)*
8. *Data Ethics and Privacy*
 - a. *Does your force have an ethics board or similar body that reviews data-related projects? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *Are there policies in place to ensure data privacy compliance (e.g., UK GDPR, UK DPA)? (Yes/No) If yes, please list the data privacy policies you follow and adhere to.*
9. *Data Use and Analytics*
 - a. *What proportion of your force's operational decisions are data-driven? (Please estimate a percentage)*
 - b. *Does your force use widespread (across multiple departments) advanced analytics (e.g., predictive modelling, AI, machine learning) to inform policing strategies and crime prevention? (Yes/No)*
10. *Continuous Improvement and Innovation*
 - a. *Does your force have a process for continuously improving its data management practices? (Yes/No)*
 - b. *How often are new data management technologies or practices piloted within your force?*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

1. a. No b. N/A
2. a. No b. Total 97 however the breakdown is exempt under S31
3. a. Yes b. 100%
4. a. No – this is currently under development b. N/A
5. a. No b. N/A
6. a. We have a data warehouse and access this through IBM Cognos analytics. We also have a wide range of other Force systems and use a combination of Microsoft Power tools and IBM Cognos to analyse. b. Yes

7. a. GMP share data as required and appropriate. b. No
8. a. Yes b. Please see below list:
- Data Protection Policy
 - Information Security Incident Policy and Procedure
 - Information Sharing Policy and Procedure
 - Data Protection Impact Assessment Policy and Procedure
 - Records Management Policy
 - Information Security Policy
 - Retention and disposal of records policy and procedure
9. a. No information held b. No
10. a. Yes b. Frequently

Part 2b. has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) - 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 breakdown on the role level could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on the team or avoiding that team for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

The requested information could be used to compromise law enforcement capabilities by decreasing the ability of Greater Manchester Police to fight crime, which would increase the commission of crime and subsequently have a detrimental impact on public safety as well as decrease public confidence in the police force.

Public Interest Test

Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

Providing the breakdown on the role level would reveal the operational and tactical capabilities of Greater Manchester Police. If specific numbers were given for a specialised team, this would allow the geographic mapping of resources. This would compromise law enforcement tactics and hinder the prevention and detection of crime and the successful prosecution of offenders.

Disclosure would provide those individuals or groups within the criminal fraternity who wish to attack the police with a significant operational advantage and the information could also be used to target locations perceived as less well-resourced or to develop tactics to divert resources away from locations that they wish to target. This would clearly jeopardise the ability of Greater Manchester Police to respond appropriately to criminal activity and thereby protect the public.

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/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 Part 2b. information from disclosure.