



Date: 20/09/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013278/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013278/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to you again, regarding the shooting that took place of a young dog that Greater Manchester Police believed to be an XL Bully type.

The incident took place on [REDACTED] Greater Manchester, where the young dog was killed by one of your firearms officers. I have written to you before to express my concerns about your officers' conduct and how the police handled the situation. My submission was recorded under the reference [REDACTED]

I appreciate the fact that you have referred yourselves to the IOPC and that you were continuing to investigate the incident that had taken place.

I would now therefore like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I expect that my request will be considered as equally as it would be to any other persons making the request. I would like to be provided with the following information.

- 1. What was the officers' justification for killing the dog?*
- 2. Why did Manchester Police refer themselves for further investigation after the incident had taken place? What was your reasoning behind this?*
- 3. What was the outcome of any investigation made by yourselves? And the outcome of the IOPC investigation?*
- 4. Please provide your reasonings for the conclusions made for this investigation along with any supporting documents that can be provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

This information is of great public interest, and I would appreciate you taking the time to respond to my request.

Any information that you are willing to provide me under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will not be published on my social media groups only if you request that I do not do this. Unless I am instructed otherwise, any information that is provided will be public across social media.

I would now like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider my request and I will look forward to your response.

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 the information requested as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the 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 exemption which applies to this request is:

Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the information requested into the public domain would show GMP's accountability and satisfy the public that investigations into the incidents are being conducted. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about this investigation however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to investigations that remain ongoing may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Whilst this investigation might be seen as high profile, to disclose any details may still hinder the process needed to be followed.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.