

Date: 23rd September 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013281/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013281/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please email me a copy of the police report for the Premier League game played between Manchester United and Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday September 1, 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 that some of the information you have requested is held by GMP. With reference to the data that is held I am not required to provide it all 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.

Where redactions have been made within the attached match report this information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of

**Section 40(2) – Personal Information
Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**

Section 40(2) represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test for such data. Any redactions within the attached report not marked as "S40" are exempt under Section 31.

The Section 31 exemption is subject to a public interest test and in this case I would outline the relevant factors as:

Harm

Disclosure of the full match reports may compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the force. This may hinder the prevention and detection of crime and also cause harm to members of the public and members of the forces staff, as well as place extra strain on police resources.

Factors in favour of disclosure

The factors considered in favouring the disclosure of the information requested are as follows. A better awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information provided to GMP from the public in relation to crime prevention. It would also lead to better public debate, as it could be seen how GMP are using its resources to tackle crime and disorder.

Factors against disclosure

Factors against the disclosure of information are: law enforcement tactics would be compromised, individuals are placed at risk. There is also potential for a greater impact on police resources, as there is a possibility that this could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and more crime may be committed. The safety of individuals is of a paramount importance to the force and a major part of the policing purpose, therefore GMP will not disclose information which could risk lives or be detrimental to our policing role of enforcing the law and protecting people.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to 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 is a better awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public, which needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which, in this case is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime. In this case, I believe the case for disclosure is not made out.



Match summary

Manchester United v Liverpool

Sun 01/09/2024, 16:00

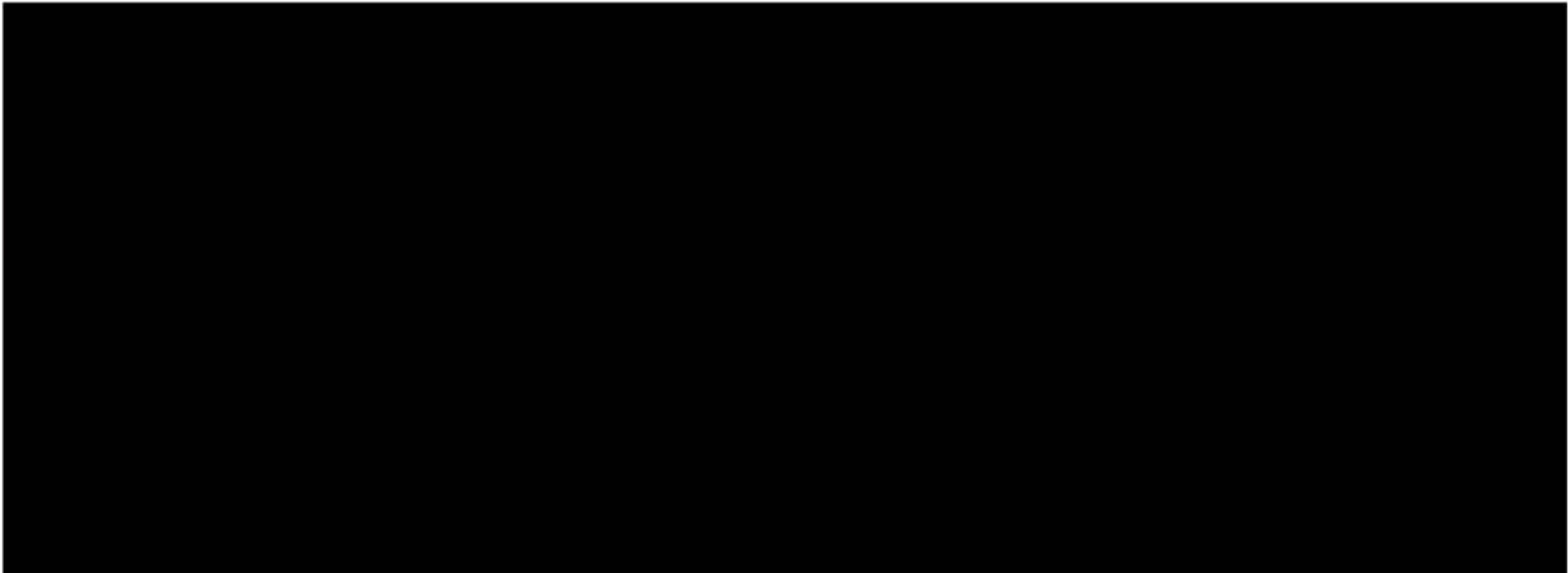
Match Details

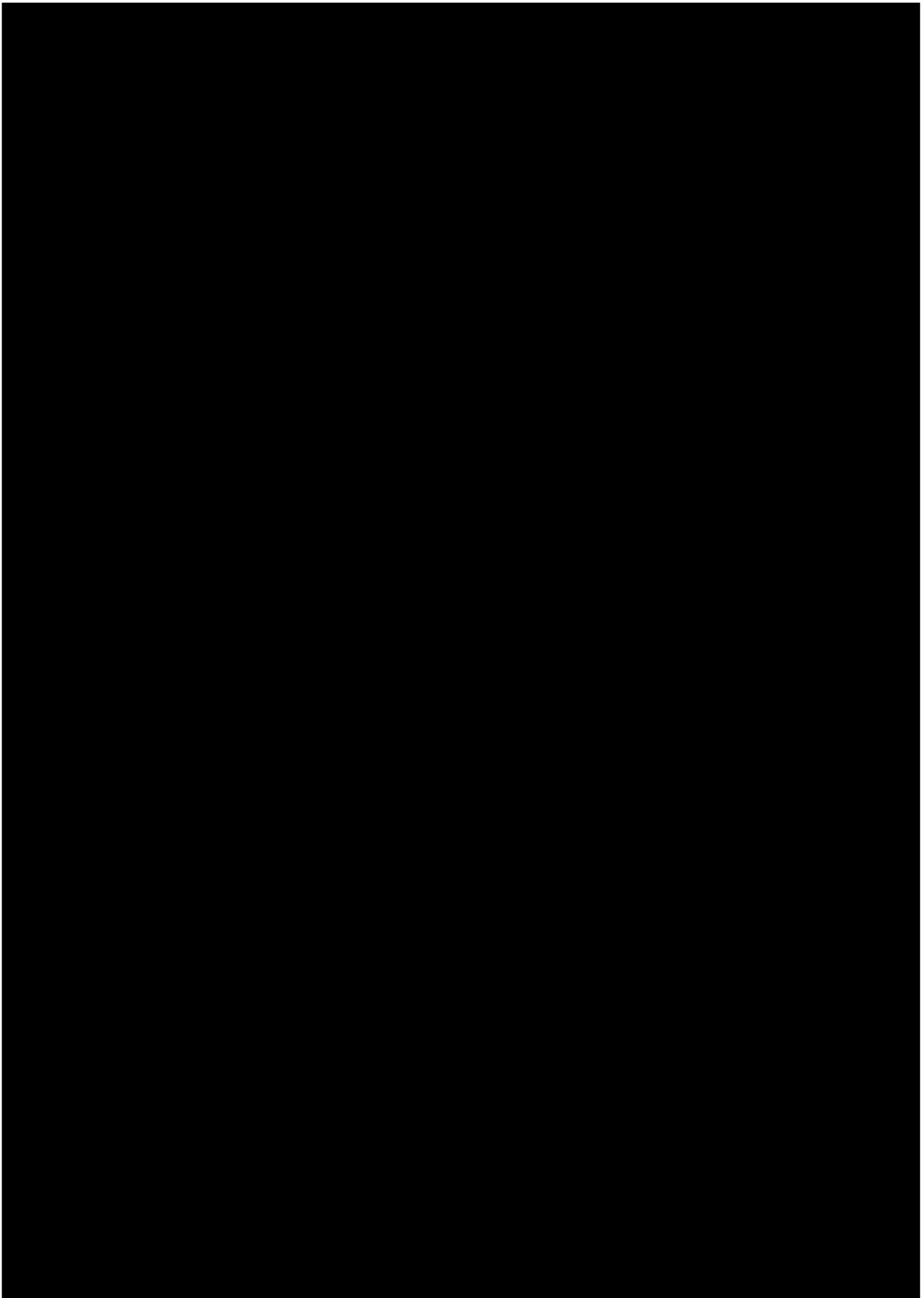
Fixture

Date	01/09/2024
Day	Sunday
Kickoff time	16:00
Match category	HIGH
Competition	Premier League
TV fixture	Yes
Score	0 - 3

Attendance

Home attendance	70,848
Away attendance	2,890
Total attendance	73,738
Number of away coaches	18







Match summary

Manchester United v Liverpool

Sun 01/09/2024, 16:00

Home resume

Phase 1 (Pre-match)

This was the FA Premier League fixture with Liverpool, which is always a highly charged fixture as a result of the intense rivalry between the two clubs.

[REDACTED]

Liverpool took the full Premier League allocation of 3,000 tickets for this fixture and were located in the East Stand in blocks E230-233 in Tier One, entering via turnstile blocks E30, and block S229 in the South Stand, entering via turnstile block S22, with away wheelchair users located on the AE8 platform at the rear of Blocks E230-232 that is accessed via the AE8 entrance. A [REDACTED] supporter was arrested [REDACTED]

There were several positive indications by the detection dogs deployed at the away turnstiles, and this resulted in one supporter being arrested for [REDACTED] and a second supporter being refused entry for [REDACTED]. No pyrotechnic devices were activated within the away section during the fixture. There was an arrest of an [REDACTED] supporter in the [REDACTED] coach park for [REDACTED]

Phase 2 (During the match)

All visiting supporters had entered the stadium prior to kick-off. A [REDACTED] supporter was arrested for [REDACTED]

A second [REDACTED] supporter was arrested for [REDACTED]

There was a total of 9 away ejections during the fixture [REDACTED]

During the second half police and security teams attended [REDACTED] following reports of the occupants being drunk and abusive towards staff. Upon their attendance violence and abuse [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

was directed towards them resulting in two of the occupants being arrested for [REDACTED] and the other eight being ejected from the stadium. There were a further ten ejections of home supporters: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The Police Commander made the decision to “contain” the away supporters within the stadium at the end of the fixture to prevent disorder taking place on the forecourt during egress. Liverpool staff present at the stadium were informed of the decision and informed their travelling supporters via a text messaging system of the police decision. PA announcements were made during the “containment” to update supporters and stewards were present on the concourse to facilitate supporters utilising the toilet facilities.

Phase 3 (Post-match)

The “containment” was released 23 minutes after the final whistle and there were no incidents observed or reported as the Liverpool supporters left the stadium following the containment being released.

[REDACTED]



Match summary

Manchester United v Liverpool

Sun 01/09/2024, 16:00

Away Resume

Phase 1 (Pre-match)

Nothing to report

Phase 2 (During the match)

Nothing to report

Phase 3 (Post-match)

Nothing to report



Match summary

Manchester United v Liverpool

Sun 01/09/2024, 16:00

Incident report

Fixture	Manchester United v Liverpool
Date	01/09/2024
Season	2024/2025

Incident S40

