



Date: 23/09/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013309/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013309/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

On the evening of 3rd August 2024, at around 21:20, GMP Wigan attended an incident at [REDACTED]. Three police vehicles were parked at their entrance and police officers were observed on their premises - I have a photograph if required.

Local residents have submitted numerous complaints to Wigan Council about noise, and the complaint process is ongoing. I currently have a Stage 2 complaint in progress with the Council and, depending on the response, it may be referred to the Local Government Ombudsman.

On the evening in question, I witnessed noisy anti-social behaviour on and immediately around [REDACTED] premises and, as part of the noise complaint, made Wigan Council aware of this. I also mentioned the police attendance.

A Wigan Council officer ([REDACTED], Licensing manager) advised me that she had been in touch with GMP, but that they had confirmed that their attendance was not in relation to any incident at [REDACTED]. I would be grateful if you would confirm whether or not this is correct.

Result of Searches

This Act provides the public with a general right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. However, information disclosed under this Act is effectively released into the public domain, or to the 'wider world', and not only to the person making the request. In cases where the public request information relating to individuals, it would be extremely rare for a public authority to release such information to the whole world under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Therefore, in accordance with the Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 40(5)(b)(i) - Personal Information**. Giving information to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

To confirm that any information is held or not, could confirm personal data. In some circumstances confirming or denying whether information is held could itself identify a living individual and would therefore 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.

This use of neither confirm nor deny should not be taken as proof that such information does or does not exist.