



Date: 07/04/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014389/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014389/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am disappointed that despite the fact we have narrowed this down (our second request for information) that you are still refusing any information. Therefore, I will narrow it down further:

Please kindly supply the information held on file relating to the event log and any relevant information received from the Environmental Agency and your response information as recorded on file. This can be strictly narrowed down to this event (Palatine Rd Didsbury event) on the dates of from noon on 31-12-24 to midnight on the 1st January 2025. It can contain any emails or logs you may have shared with the EA.

This is not an unreasonable request and therefore as the request has now been substantially narrowed in scope and resources, we hope that the GMP will now provide this information.

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 supply you with all the information as an exemption applies.

The information requested exempt under **Section 14(1) - Vexatious Requests**.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the public better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A public authority can refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of

information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies to your request: **Burden on the Authority.** [How do we consider burden, motive and harassment? | ICO](#)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information. The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such, your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on GMP. To provide the data requested would involve manual redactions to each piece of data in the requested documents so they do not contain operationally sensitive and personal information which could identify directly or indirectly a living human therefore Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement and Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would 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.

There are over 200 separate documents that have been identified as relevant to the policing operation on 31st December and 1st January. The time taken to review and redact these documents would cause a grossly oppressive burden on GMP.

For instance, one of the transcripts is 24 pages long. One recording of a Microsoft Teams meeting is 1 hour and 19 minutes long. This would have to be transcribed and then reviewed and redacted. Furthermore, not all the documents will be relevant to your request as some will relate to the flooding in Didsbury and some will relate to other aspects of the policing operation for the New Years Eve festivities. For this reason, any further requests of this nature will be refused under Section 14(1) of the Act, which states that requests that are considered to be vexatious do not have to be complied with.