

Date: 24th April 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014271/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014271/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I wish to make an FOI request to answer the enquiry made of the Chief Constable as detailed in the email below. A reply of 19/2/25 to the email below, from the Chief Constable's Office, directs me to make such an FOI Request.

As Chief Constable I wish to enquire of you if GMP is now, and has in recent History, been Operationally Independent of all external Political and Commercial Influences?

A Yes or No answer would be appreciated.

CLARIFICATION

I wish to know whether GMP has been influenced in it's Operations, in particular the decisions of Senior GMP Officers, as to whether what are, prima facie, crimes, are in practice ever investigated, due to requests, suggestions, or even demands from Senior Government Ministers or Secretaries of State, or indeed Commercial Organisations

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. However, GMP cannot confirm if it holds the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial manual review of all GMP investigations and Operational records to determine if there has been any outside influence. Due to level of work required, to confirm whether the information is held would greatly exceed the 18 hour cost limit.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to try and bring compliance within the fees limit. The information you are requesting will need to be revised. Your request must be for recorded information and the request as it stands does not state clearly what is to be searched for. You could also provide specific details of any operations or investigations you would like GMP to review. However, the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the amount of information that falls within the scope of any new request, as the information would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.