



Date: 17/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015714/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015714/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide information for Manchester Pride ("The Big Weekend" and associated activities) covering the periods below:

Year | Period Covered

2022 | Thu 25 Aug – Tue 30 Aug 2022

2023 | Thu 24 Aug – Tue 29 Aug 2023

2024 | Thu 22 Aug – Tue 27 Aug 2024

2025 | Thu 21 Aug – Tue 26 Aug 2025

1. Policing classification

Confirm for each year whether policing of:

- the Pride march/parade, and*
 - any other associated Pride activity within "The Big Weekend,"*
- was categorised as either:*

- a) core policing of a public protest/procession, or*
- b) "Special Police Services" (SPS) under Section 25 of the Police Act 1996 (or any other billable policing service).*

Provide any Safety Advisory Group minutes, risk assessments or internal correspondence recording this classification.

2. SPS or chargeable services

If SPS or other chargeable services were provided:

- Total amount invoiced each year;*
- Description of services (e.g. policing inside ticketed zones, crowd control beyond core duties);*

- Charging framework or rate card used.

3. Core public order duties

If no SPS charges were made, confirm that policing was delivered under core public order duties and not subject to re-charge.

4. Discounts or waivers

State whether any discounts, subsidies or waivers were applied and their values.

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 of the information held 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.

The information you have requested relating to the amount charged for Special Policing Services is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement.**

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

S31(1) - Evidence of Harm

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing any further information relating to specific policing operations within Greater Manchester Police would reveal our operational capability, which would be of intelligence value to criminals.

Disclosure of resources at the police's disposal, including resources used for the policing of planned, large-attendance events, such as Manchester Pride, will mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be able to formulate ways to circumvent or overwhelm the policing operation at these events. If disclosed the tactics used by GMP at future events of a similar nature will become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend, or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

There is always a duty of care to the public and the Police Service has a clear responsibility to ensure the prevention or detection of crime, and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders is always delivered. There are several tactics available to the Police Service to ensure the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In this case, specialist policing activity is

required to undertake fair investigations where it may be necessary to progress a range of reasonable lines of enquiry. As such, the disclosure of any further information which would hinder the forces law enforcement functions cannot be in the public interest.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S31 - Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money. Disclosure of the requested information would enable the public to assess whether the force has appropriately taken steps to help reduce and detect crime by such means as developing an appropriate policing operation for this event. Release would enhance public debate as to whether the force is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals.

Factors against disclosure for S31 - Disclosure that reveals our operational capabilities would compromise law enforcement tactics. Criminals could use the information to target areas of perceived weakness assuming that their activities are less likely to be detected. It may be used by criminals who are intent on pursuing their criminal activity, to identify and exploit the limitations of these resources.

To release information relating to operational capacity and capability utilised for the policing of such events would have a detrimental effect on our policing capabilities. Therefore, to mitigate any risks, disclosure of this information needs to be protected, to ensure that those with intent to do so cannot manipulate it or undermine its purpose in any way.

Any disclosure of information which would compromise law enforcement tactics and thus lead to more crime being committed by reducing the opportunity for the prevention and detection of crime, would therefore increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balancing Test

Law enforcement is of paramount importance and the Police service will not disclose information if to do so would undermine its purpose and place the safety of individuals at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money in policing appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this area.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of law enforcement, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

The remainder of the information you have requested is not exempt. Where held, the information is provided below:

1. The Pride march/parade was policed as core policing of a public protest/procession. There were also requests from the event organisers for SPS for matters for policing in the event site. SAG minutes are not held by GMP. Please contact Manchester City Council for this information.

2. Policing inside the venue and the gates which were outside of core policing. There were also several other resources away from the event site that were not charged for. This statutory charge is prepared in accordance with Section 25 of the Police Act 1996 and guidance issued nationally by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). The costs charged each year is exempt under Section 31, please see above.
3. There were resources away from the event site that were not charged for.
4. There was a submission to the Mayor's Office for abatement of which they made the decision on how much to abate the cost by. Please contact the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for more information on this.