



Date: 25/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015911/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015911/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

Any available police incident reports, officer notes, or use-of-force reports related to the incident at Manchester Airport involving two men who were later convicted of assaulting police officers.

The incident occurred before 30 July 2025, as referenced in The Guardian article: "Men guilty of Manchester Airport police assault."

If possible, I would also like to request:

Any CCTV or body-worn camera footage related to this incident.

The time, date, and location of the incident as recorded by the responding officers.

This request relates to a specific incident and specific individuals involved.

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 provide the information requested as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the 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 exemption which applies to this request is:

Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the information requested into the public domain would show GMP's accountability and satisfy the public that investigations into the incidents are being conducted. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about the investigations however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to pending prosecutions may seriously undermine the criminal justice process and harm the defendant's right to a fair trial.

Whilst these investigations might be seen as high profile by some, to disclose any details may still hinder the process needed to be followed.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on the criminal justice process. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.