

Date: 04/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015873/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015873/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The term "School Liaison Officer" (SLO) should be understood to include any officer or PCSO whose duties involve regular deployment to, or partnership work with, schools under any "safer schools", "schools-based policing", "school engagement" or similar programme.

1. Authorised / permitted equipment

Please provide the list, policy, or operational guidance describing all personal safety / use-of-force equipment that School Liaison Officers are permitted or required to carry while on duty in schools or on school premises.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- batons / expandable batons***
- PAVA / CS / incapacitant spray***
- handcuffs***
- spit guards / spit hoods***
- Tasers / Conducted Energy Devices***
- firearms***
- knives / weapon detection wands or scanners***
- body-worn video***
- any other enforcement or restraint equipment used, issued, or authorised***

2. Prohibited equipment

Please provide any policy, guidance, or directive which states any equipment that School Liaison Officers are prohibited from carrying in school settings, including weapons which other officers in GMP may carry in non-school contexts.

3. Current authorisation numbers

As of the date of this request, please state the number of School Liaison Officers (as defined above) who are authorised to carry:

- a) Tasers / Conducted Energy Devices***
- b) PAVA/CS or other incapacitant spray***
- c) batons***
- d) firearms***

(If data is not held centrally, please advise under FOIA s.16 how the request may be refined.)

4. Use-of-force incidents in schools

For the last five calendar years, please provide a breakdown of any recorded incidents in which a School Liaison Officer used, drew, or threatened the use of any of the above equipment on school premises. Please include where held:

***the category of equipment involved,
date of incident,
school type (primary, secondary, FE/college), recorded outcome (e.g., arrest, injury, safeguarding referral).***

I am not requesting identifiable personal 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 all the information as an exemption applies.

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.

Due to low results **question 4** is exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual/s, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

1. There is no policy or document in a recorded form for this question. All officers will initially carry batons, PAVA, handcuffs, BWV and personal radio.
2. There is no equipment that is specifically prohibited from carrying in schools, however, SLO's are not taser trained/firearms officers so would not have use of these.
3. (a) None (b) 16 (c) 16 (d) None.
4. See exemption above.