

Date: 9th December 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015969/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015969/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could you provide a copy of all your internal force guidance for officers including policies, procedures, checklists, toolkits on:

- 1. Domestic abuse***
- 2. Harassment and stalking***
- 3. Victims' Right to Review***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemptions applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 exemptions which apply specifically to the redactions made to the policies. The exemptions that apply are:

Section 21 – Information reasonably accessible by other means
Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement
Section 40(2) – Personal Information

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

Where redaction occurs within the attached documents that are not signified with a stamp next to it, relates to Section 40(2) Personal Information, 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.

Sections 31(1)(a)(b) is a prejudice based and qualified exemption; there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Harm

To disclose the redacted information within the attached policies would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the force, resulting in safety implications for the general public, thus creating extra strain on police resources. Furthermore, disclosing such information has the potential to seriously undermine effective law enforcement and policing strategy. Therefore, GMP will not disclose information that would prejudice their ability to prevent or detect criminal activity or to protect the general public.

Factors in favour of disclosure

Disclosure of the redacted information would enable and assist individuals by raising their awareness and better understanding of how GMP deals with Domestic Abuse and Harassment and Stalking. Furthermore, the public would also have a better understanding of the efficiency and effectiveness of GMP in performing its responsibilities within these areas.

Factors against disclosure

To disclose the redacted information would hinder the prevention or detection of crime, the efficient and effective conduct of the force and the potential to seriously undermine the effective law enforcement tactics in how GMP deals with specific crime types, allowing potential offenders to use the information to their advantage. The safety of the public is of a paramount importance to the force and a major part of the policing purpose, therefore GMP will not disclose information which could risk lives or be detrimental to our policing role of enforcing the law and protecting people.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the awareness it brings to the public, showing how GMP deal with such crimes. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which, in this case is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk, as potential offenders may use this information to their advantage in order to adapt the way in which they commit such criminal acts.

In this case it is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk should all the information within these policies be released. Therefore, in this case, I believe the case for disclosure is not made out.

Response

The requested information is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The information referred to is already available in the Public Domain. Please follow the links below.

The Domestic Abuse Policy & Procedure August 2024 can be found at the following link.

[GMP Domestic Abuse Policy](#)

The Stalking and Harassment Policy & Procedure April 2021 can be found at the following link.

[STALKING AND HARASSMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE \(APRIL 2021\).pdf](#)

Please see attached the Victims Right to Review internal policy.