

Date: 10/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014097/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014097/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information for training, procedures, and guidance provided to officers in your constabulary concerning individuals using prescription medications, specifically medical cannabis users, who may be stopped while operating a vehicle.

- 1. Please could you provide copies of relevant training documents/excerpts that explain to officers how to manage situations where prescription medication users, generally or medical cannabis-specific, are stopped while operating a vehicle and would test positive, but their driving is not impaired?***
- 2. Are alternative sobriety tests ever used, and under what circumstances? If yes, does this take into account the physical difficulties a prescription user may have? Please could you provide any supporting guidance or documentation about this given to front line officers.***
- 3. Do your officers have any specific training around the use of prescription cannabis? Please could you provide a copy/excerpt of any relevant training or guidance.***
- 4. Please could you provide excerpts of any guidance provided to front-line officers on procedures around prescription medication, particularly but not exclusively: Under what circumstances confiscation of prescription medication is reasonable Under what circumstances arrest of a prescription medication holder is reasonable What actions a police officer should take to verify if a prescription is genuine What actions a police officer should take when a member of the public raises legislation they are unfamiliar with?***

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 not held by GMP.

1. No information held. Should an arrest take place, the individual will have to prove in court a medical defence.
2. Officers can use a variety of pre-liminary tests, these are Breathalysers, Drugs Wipes and Field Impairment Tests. It will be for a court to decide if any physical difficulties have impacted the test.
3. GMP do not provide specific training around the use of prescription cannabis.
4. GMP do not provide specific training to match the need of this question. However, all officers are advised to use the NDM to aid their decision making. You can find more on this via this link <https://www.college.police.uk/app/national-decision-model/national-decision-model>