

Date: 18th February 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014009/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014009/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Paragraph 2.5.4 of the NPCC Guidance on Charging for Special Police Services states:

The policing provision depends upon a number of roles, some of which are determined as core policing for the purposes of the match. These can be supplemented by further partial deployments and/or specialist roles.

Could you please define what those core roles are, and at what number (i.e. how many officers) of those roles are required to be in place before further partial deployments can be requested?

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.

While 'core roles' for Special Police Services (SPS) in relation to football matches are referenced in the National Police Chiefs Council guidance for SPS, and in the UK Football Policing Unit operational guidance, they are not currently further defined in terms of capability (what type) or capacity (how many of each.)

Greater Manchester Police and other police forces, therefore, are currently required to take an operational approach to core roles, further partial deployments and/or specialist roles. It would in any case be challenging to fully define these, given that each fixture has its own operational dynamics and risk assessment, and each venue is different in terms of 'on footprint' and 'off footprint' characteristics. Given those challenges, it would not be possible to give a specific number of officers in football core roles, before officers in further partial deployments can be agreed.