



Date: 03/03/2025
REF: 01/FOI/25/014132/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014132/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide the following information:

Any internal work, research and evaluation regarding strip searching, carried out in response to the issues raised, and learning from, from the Child Q incident.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide a chronological breakdown of every updated piece of training data or officer input, across every area of the force (over the last four years) would take well over the 18-hour time limit. Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. The resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied some information relevant to your request, that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Since December 2020 (the date of the aforementioned "Child Q" incident), there have been several pieces of internal work relating to searching within Greater Manchester Police.

These include, but are not limited to;

- Several publications advising officers their powers regarding strip searches (such as the requirement to obtain Duty Inspector authority prior to any Stop Search where Intimate Body Parts are exposed, and the requirement for an Appropriate Adult to be present when the search involves a juveniles [except in cases of urgency, where there is a real risk of serious harm]).
- A HMIFRCS signed-off series of improvements relating to Custody processes, featuring "Maintaining dignity of detainees - including legitimate strip search decisions, recording, and ensuring detainees are not naked in their cell" (Details can be found [here](#))
- A force-review of the March 2023 Childrens Commissioner's report (which scrutinised Stop & Search Policy across England & Wales on persons under 18, where intimate body parts are exposed) was completed and comprehensive sections on 'More Thorough Searches' and 'Exposure of Intimate Parts' – have now been compiled and added to the new Greater Manchester Police Stop Search Policy, which is due to be published shortly.
- Strip searches for welfare or self-harm purposes that are carried out in response to an arrestee refusing to answer risk assessment questions at the custody desk have ended, with steps taken to make the practice a 'Last Resort' for concealment.