

Date: 18/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014330/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014330/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Operation Milan

I would like all information available including details about the investigation and who was investigated, who was prosecuted and who was charged with any offences relating to the abuse of children.

Operation Milan is supposed to be the big main operation conducted by GMP into Child abuse in care homes across Gtr Manchester back in the 90s.

Clarification

- 1) Who was charged with abuse committed against any child at Woodend***
- 2) Who was successfully prosecuted for the above abuse.***
- 3) How many children were interviewed with regards to abuse at Woodend***
- 4) How many staff were interviewed with regards to abuse at Woodend***
- 5) How much time and man hours did GMP spend investigating abuse at Woodend***
- 6) Were [REDACTED] investigated for abuse***
- 7) Did GMP speak to former staff who weren't accused of abuse, to get a different perspective of the claims***
- 8) How many complaints regarding abuse at Woodend have GMP received over the last 4 decades***
- 9) Did GMP get to see or receive the files from Woodend that WMBC say they hold.***
- 10) What happened to or who holds the records for Woodend that includes all children placed there, complaints, claims of abuse and requests for medical and injury reports.***
- 11) How many care homes or institutions under WMBC were investigated during operation Milan.***
- 12) How long did operation Milan last for.***

- 13) Why did operation Milan come to an end, and did GMP consider operation Milan to be a success or a failure.**
- 14) How much did operation Milan cost.**
- 15) How many officers were involved in operation Milan from start to finish.**
- 16) Have any GMP officers involved in operation Milan, been accused or prosecuted of fraud, abuse or possession of child porn.**
- 17) Who was the senior officer for operation Milan, is he still a serving officer within GMP.**
- 18) Has CC Steve Watkins ever been involved in or with operation Milan, was he part of the investigating team or a senior overseeing officer of the investigation.**
- 19) How do GMP in regards to operation Milan, feel about it's conclusion and do they regardless of any outcomes, believe that the claims of abuse were true and even if they couldn't prosecute, the evidence pointed to a regime of abuse at Woodend.**

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of multiple systems including all paper records over the last 40 years. For example, question 8 and others would take a significant amount of time as this information is no longer stored in an easy to locate and retrieve location. Over the last 4 decades GMP has changed systems and to locate and retrieve information relative to this FOI would far exceed the 18hrs permitted to respond.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.