

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013724/O

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Friday, 20 December 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013724/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/11/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) *Which department deals with image enhancement?*
- 2) *Which software is used when dealing with image enhancement or photographs in general (e.g. AMPED)?*
- 3) *If you don't use the software Amped, have you heard of it, and is there a reason you do not use it?*
- 4) *How often does your force deal with AI generated images or images that have been potentially enhanced/changed?*
- 5) *What training is required in order to use the software mentioned in question 2, if any?*
- 6) *What challenges have you faced, if any, when dealing with image enhancement and how did you overcome these?*
- 7) *What challenges do you believe could occur due to image enhancement?*

Result of Searches

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

1. Exempt under S31
2. Exempt under S31
3. Exempt under S31
4. Exempt under S31
5. Exempt under S31
6. This is not a valid question under the FOI Act
7. This is not a valid question under the FOI Act

The exemption applied to the above parts is as follow:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**

Harm

Release via the Freedom of Information Act is deemed release into the public domain. Therefore, whatever information is held, would allow criminals to accurately evaluate the capability of Greater Manchester Police and the systems we use. Such detailed knowledge would allow criminals to make a judgement regarding the systems we use and therefore take measures to target the force.

Public Interest Test

Considerations Favouring Disclosure

Disclosing information about systems which are used by police would provide a greater transparency in their actions and ensure that they operate effectively and efficiently. It is clear that there is a public interest in public authorities operating in as transparent a manner as possible, as this should allow the public to understand how the force spends public money.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure

Where current or future law enforcement role of the force may be compromised by the release of information, then this is unlikely to be in the interest of the public. Providing information on our systems may be more harmful inasmuch as it would reveal a picture of force capability and capacity in a highly sensitive area. If disclosed, information about such systems could identify potential vulnerabilities which could be exploited by criminals, leaving the force more susceptible to cyber-attack and hacking. Infiltration of police systems by hackers would significantly undermine the force ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders.

Balancing Test

For a public interest test, issues that favour disclosure need to be measured against issues that favour non-disclosure. The public interest is not what interests the public, or a particular Individual, but what will be the greater good, if released, to the community as a whole. We recognise that the public interest in being open and transparent is of great importance to all and release of information may assist in the public being more aware of the work that the police are carrying out.

However, it is my view that the public safety from non-disclosure is of greater importance than the advantage of public confidence from the disclosure of this information. Greater Manchester Police will not disclose information that could compromise the future law enforcement role of the force.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.