



Date: 16/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013867/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013867/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/12/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide me with a copy of your logo guidelines, branding manual or equivalent.

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, I am not obliged to provide all the information as exceptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. The information you have requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement.**

S31 – Law Enforcement: Harm

GMP's corporate branding is often used by criminals to facilitate the commission of crime. For example, we are aware of incidents of our branding appearing on counterfeit warrant cards. To release the requested information would make it easier for those intent on committing crime to impersonate GMP officers. It would also provide criminals with knowledge that would allow them to compose counterfeit letterhead paper and phishing emails for use in fraud and other crimes. With the information you have requested, criminals could design these to be indistinguishable from genuine communications from GMP. This would impact on the law

enforcement capabilities of GMP in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose would show GMP's accountability in the use of public funds. It would also show transparency in the branding process.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release speed enforcement information would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP. It would give those intent on committing crime valuable knowledge of how to impersonate GMP officers and imitate GMP communications, which would impact of GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

Any disclosure of information which would provide valuable knowledge to criminals, and as a result lead to more crime being committed would increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balancing Test

Law enforcement is of paramount importance and GMP will not disclose information if to do so would undermine its purpose and facilitate further crime to be committed. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money appropriately, there is a very strong public interest in preventing crime and not causing an increased demand on policing resources. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.