

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013881/A

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Thursday, 09 January 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013881/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/12/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many GMP officers were the subject of complaints in the calendar year 2024?*
2. *How many complaints were dismissed by the investigating officer but appealed and considered by your Professional Standards Department (PSD)?*
3. *How many of these complaints did the PSD uphold?*
4. *Optional for context: How many officers were serving in your Force in 2024?*

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 the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Please note - not all complaints are investigated by PSD. If a review is submitted against an outcome, it is not then reviewed by PSD – the review bodies are either the GMCA or IOPC. They decide on a review outcome.

Parts 1 to 3

The number of complaints & review decisions are published by the IOPC every quarter.

The exemption applicable to the information is **Section 21 - Information reasonably accessible by other means**. This is because the information is already freely available at:

<https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/police-force/greater-manchester-police>

For the rest of 2024, the data will be published in the next few weeks on the above website.

The information requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 22(1)(a) – Information intended for future publication.**

As the exemption used is a qualified exemption a public interest test (PIT) needs to be applied.

Public Interest test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds.

Therefore, the stance at this time is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication.

Part 4

Based on Headcount and as at 31st December 2024 - 7,859
Caveat - Excluding external secondments and career breaks