



Date: 17/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013966/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013966/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

To whom this may concern, can I request any further information on this case or the suspect in custody?

At 11:30pm last night (Saturday 11 January) GMP were called to Rochdale Road in Oldham to reports of a stabbing.

It's believed that a member of the public attacked a member of staff at Royal Oldham Hospital.

The victim, a woman in her 50s, suffered serious injuries and remains in hospital for treatment. Her injuries are believed to be life changing.

A 37 year old man was swiftly arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder. He remains in police custody.

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 the information requested as exemptions 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 exemptions apply.

The exemptions which apply to this request are:

- **Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means**
- **Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities**
- **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**

Some information has previously been made public by GMP. Please see [this statement](#) issued on Monday 13th January.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Where Section 40 has been used, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Factors Favouring Disclosure – S30

To disclose the information requested into the public domain would show GMP's accountability and satisfy the public that investigations into the incident is being conducted. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure – S30

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about the investigation however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to investigations that remain ongoing may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Whilst this investigations might be seen as high profile by some, to disclose any details may still hinder the process needed to be followed.

Balancing Test – S30

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.