

Date: 03/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013695/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013695/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1 - Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted by your force or that your force leads?

For example, WDTK notes that;

ACRO is hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary -

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fbody%2Facro&data=05%7C02%7Cfreedomofinformation%40gmp.police.uk%7Cd94227a1cfac43e3c30808dd0b2b3930%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C63867902463712503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UIQ7DSKYIttoWikth5hjBBc1Z423jfCSFKOmTEf1CP4%3D&reserved=0>

CPTHQ is hosted by the Metropolitan Police -

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fbody%2Fcpthq&data=05%7C02%7Cfreedomofinformation%40gmp.police.uk%7Cd94227a1cfac43e3c30808dd0b2b3930%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C638679002463732993%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NmstgoUQ6Sp8bgff84%2BzmUj6GY9rHeCecjn6Yok%2FS6w%3D&reserved=0>

CMPG is hosted by West Midlands Police -

https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fbody%2Fcentral_motorway_police_group&data=05%7C02%7Cfreedomofinformation%40gmp.police.uk%7Cd94227a1cfac43e3c30808dd0b2b3930%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C638679002463744112%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFBpbCIsIlIdUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UIQ7DSKYIttoWikth5hjBBc1Z423jfCSFKOmTEf1CP4%3D&reserved=0

kiOnRydWUslIYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoITWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wkQMy4b92z6SEkTmlZDsXmLm5Nro1S05EKQFH2A%2F07g%3D&reserved=0

2 - Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that your force participates in?

For example,

NPAS is hosted by West Midlands Police, but have participation from all forces in England & Wales.

For each national or regional functions/partnerships/specialism, please detail; Number of officers staff seconded out & where to - include rank for officers and role & grade for staff. Number of officers staff seconded out & where from - include rank for officers and role & grade for staff.

Also detail any of the above that have ended in the last 10 years. If this exceeds cost. proceed with the remainder of the request above.

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 exemption applies.

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 exemption which applies to this request is:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Sections 31 is prejudice based and qualified exemptions; there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Disclosure of the details of any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted by GMP or that GMP leads would reveal tactical capability and vulnerabilities and would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of Greater Manchester Police during these operations.

The safety of the public is of a paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the details of these partnerships locally or nationally if not already in the public domain would compromise the safety of the public that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect.

Furthermore, this would impact the future law enforcement capabilities of Greater Manchester Police in the prevention and detection of crime as criminals intent on committing crime will have an insight on how and when police resources are used.

Section 31 – Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details about force led operations or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that GMP participate in, be that past or present, would show accountability of Greater Manchester Police. Disclosure would encourage public awareness and debate and may reduce crime or lead to more information being provided to Greater Manchester Police from the public for the prevention and

detection of crime. Disclosure would also show Greater Manchester Police's use of resources to prevent crime.

Section 31 – Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

To disclose details of functions/partnerships GMP are leading or involved in would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the force, especially the force's future law enforcement tactics being compromised. The safety of the public is paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police have sworn to protect.

Disclosure would lead to a greater impact on police resources, in that this could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and more crime being committed in the future. It would give advantage to those individuals intent on criminal activity, and it may assist potential criminals evading the police as policing levels would become evident. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify vulnerability and target and exploit the force resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be Greater Manchester Police's accountability. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the police service is charged with enforcing the law; preventing and detecting crime and protecting the people/communities we serve.

In this case this is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the affect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime. In this case, I believe the case for disclosure is not made out.

The police will not divulge any information that would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing, and in this case providing the use of resources to prevent crime by disclosing the partnerships GMP may have in place, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the resource capability which could highlight which events/areas etc the force is focussing on and in some cases focussing on more.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this request.