



Date: 30/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014697/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014697/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Dear Greater Manchester Police FOI Team, I write to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. With respect to multimedia forensic processes, could you please provide me with a copy of the most recent Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidance documents, or policy documents held by your force.

For clarity, by multimedia forensics I refer specifically to the forensic analysis, enhancement, authentication, interpretation, and presentation of audio, video, and still-image material. This does not include general digital forensics (such as the extraction of data from computers, mobile devices, or other storage media). I am solely concerned with processes dealing directly with audio, video, and image evidence.

Specifically, please provide the material requested in the following four bullet points:

- 1. A copy of the SOPs, guidance documents, or policy documents covering the forensic processing, enhancement, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of audio, video, and image material for investigative or evidential purposes.*
- 2. Any internal multimedia forensic workflows, protocols, or standard practices related to handling such material.*
- 3. The names of software, tools, or systems used for these processes, including any associated training or operational guidance.*
- 4. The quality assurance, validation, or review procedures used to ensure the accuracy, authenticity, and admissibility of multimedia forensic evidence.*

If the full SOPs or documents cannot be shared, I kindly request the following information in place of the SOP as per the following seven points:

- 5. A summary or description of the multimedia forensic processes followed.*
- 6. SOP titles, version numbers, and the dates of their creation, last update, and validation/approval.*
- 7. The roles, departments, or individuals responsible for authoring, validating, or approving the SOPs.*
- 8. The legislation, policies, standards, or external guidance referenced during the development and/or review of the SOPs.*
- 9. Whether the SOPs have undergone any ethical review or approval, and details of any such review processes or bodies involved.*
- 10. Whether the SOPs have been externally validated, peer-reviewed, or accredited by any agency, professional body, or external organization.*
- 11. Whether any SOPs are currently under review, have recently been amended, or are scheduled for updates, and the relevant timelines if applicable.*

In addition to the previous, please provide responses to the following four points regarding the use of emerging technologies:

- 12. Please detail whether your multimedia forensic unit currently uses or has trialled artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning (ML) tools for:
 - a. Authentication (e.g., detecting edits, deepfakes, or tampering)*
 - b. Enhancement (e.g., audio/video/image quality improvement)*
 - c. Analysis or interpretation (e.g., transcription, object recognition, pattern matching) Note: a simple response is acceptable here such as "Authentication: Use. Enhancement: Trialled. Analysis: Not used"**
- 13. If applicable, the names or vendors of the AI/ML tools used.*
- 14. Whether the use of these tools is governed by any SOPs, internal policies, or ethical guidelines.*
- 15. Whether the adoption and use of AI/ML tools have been subject to ethical review, oversight, or risk assessment, and any details of such reviews or assessments.*

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Due to the broad scope of your request, to provide the information requested would

involve a manual search of records held by GMP's Forensic Services Branch. The Forensic Services Branch advise me that to collate all of the information you have requested would take over 18 hours.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. The only advice I can offer in this instance is to narrow the focus of your request to a particular area of forensics, as this will reduce the number of searches that will have to be conducted.

There is some public domain information on the College of Policing website that may be of use. [Digital intelligence and investigation | College of Policing](#)