



Date: 10/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014939/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014939/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding the Parklife music festival held in 2025:

Total Reported Crimes:

- 1. Please provide the number of reported crimes associated with the Parklife event, broken down into those which occurred within the event site and those which occurred in the surrounding area but are linked to the festival (e.g. incidents involving attendees before or after the event, or at local transport hubs).*

*Cost of Policing:
Please confirm:*

- 2. The total cost to Greater Manchester Police for policing the 2025 Parklife event.*
- 3. The amount of this cost that was paid for by the event organisers.*
- 4. The amount that was funded by the public purse, either directly through GMP's budget or indirectly through support from other publicly funded bodies.*

Public Value Analysis:

- 5. What analysis, if any, was undertaken by GMP or in conjunction with other public agencies to assess whether the public funding and policing resource commitment to Parklife 2025 represented value for money for local residents and taxpayers?*

I do not seek details of officer deployment, tactics, or operational planning, which I understand may be subject to exemptions under Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the Act. My request focuses solely on financial accountability and public interest, particularly as the event organisers have publicly claimed to contribute minimal policing costs despite the event's scale and impact on local services.

As a resident and taxpayer in Greater Manchester, I believe it is in the public interest to understand how public funds are being allocated in relation to private commercial events. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has made clear in various decisions that there is a strong public interest in the disclosure of information where public funds are involved (ICO guidance on "Public interest test" and FOI awareness guidance 3 – 'Information in the public domain').

I trust that this request falls well within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and does not engage any qualified exemptions that would warrant refusal. Should any element of the request require clarification, please contact me as soon as possible so that the statutory deadline can still be met.

I look forward to your response within the 20 working day statutory period.

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 that some of the information you have requested is held by GMP. With reference to the data that is held I am not required to provide it all as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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 in questions 2, 3 and 4 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**.

The Section 31 exemption is subject to a public interest test and in this case, I would outline the relevant factors as:

Harm: Disclosure of the details relating to the costs of the policing operation for Parklife festival would reveal the level of operational resources used for the policing of Parklife festival. This would compromise the efficient and effective policing operations for future events. This would hinder the prevention and detection of crime and cause harm to members of the public and members of the forces staff, as well as place extra strain on police resources.

Factors in favour of disclosure: A better awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information provided to GMP from the public in relation to crime prevention. It would also lead to better public debate, as it could be seen how GMP are using its resources to tackle crime and disorder at Parklife and similar events.

Factors against disclosure: If this information is disclosed, law enforcement tactics would be compromised and individuals would be placed at risk. There is also potential for a greater impact on police resources, as there is a possibility that this could hinder the prevention and

detection of crime and more crime may be committed. The safety of individuals is of a paramount importance to the force and a major part of the policing purpose, therefore GMP will not disclose information which could risk lives or be detrimental to our policing role of enforcing the law and protecting people.

Balancing Test: When balancing the public interest test GMP must 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 is a better awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public, which needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which, in this case 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.

1.

Location	Crime Count
Inside festival site	88
Gates	19
Surrounding Streets and Pick-up/Drop-off	11
Park	12
Total	130

2. Exempt under S31, see above.

3. Exempt under S31, see above.

4. Exempt under S31, see above.

5. No information is held by GMP. Value for money is a very subjective issue, and there would be no consensus on what value for money looked like. For the last 3 events, GMP has commissioned a comprehensive piece of analysis that looks at crime, disorder and safeguarding issues that allows us to consider how the operation can be even more effective next year. GMP also undertakes 'hot' debrief activity immediately concluding the event, and a further structured debrief several weeks later. In addition, a full partnership debrief takes place at the end of summer.