

Date: 24/07/2025

Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015101/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015101/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am researching details, for a magazine article or book chapter, about the theft of a vintage Bedford TK truck containing a valuable fairground organ, from outside [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] on Friday 29 June 2007 (between 1000 and 1800).

The vehicle and organ appears to have simply vanished with no witnesses or cctv sightings - if rumours are to be believed - and the case has mystified the heritage enthusiast fraternity ever since. Today there is much hearsay, rumour and speculation, which I would like to attempt to partly lay to rest with the results of my research.

I have been in touch with the then owner, [REDACTED], and he has approved my wish to contact yourselves. He also says that he welcomes my intervention. Sadly he is unable to add much himself to my knowledge.

Therefore I wonder whether you are able to fill in any details or, better still, make the report of the case - presumably long closed or dormant - available to me.

The points that particularly interest me are:

1/ it seems incredible that no cctv picked up this very obvious brightly painted signwritten vehicle, unless it only travelled a very short distance from the farm.

2/ was it established how much fuel was in the truck?

3/ was there any sign of another vehicle having been at the farm or nearby (ie something such as a commercial vehicle recovery truck)?

4/ is there any truth that the truck was later found, minus the organ, at a Manchester scrapyard?

5/ has it ever been recorded by your force that the punched hole folding cardboard music books from the organ were later sighted by a very reliable source at premises unknown (the person won't say where for fear of reprisal), and that some are today in circulation? The same

person told me about "three show land figures that have since passed, taking their secrets to the grave".

There are some - myself included - that believe that this organ still exists somewhere, hidden away, even possibly at the location where the music books were seen.

I am told that your force carried out a very thorough investigation at the time. I am hopeful that you may be prepared, after so long, to share the findings with me.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply all the information 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.

This request is exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual/s, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.