

Date: 17th July 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015114/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015114/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning an incident in Gatley, Stockport, in which a 39-year-old woman was arrested and subsequently charged with the murder of a 93-year-old woman in April 2024.

This case received significant media coverage due to:

The vulnerability of the victim,

The fact that the suspect and victim were known to each other,

Reports that GMP had prior contact with the victim before her death,

A referral to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

I respectfully request the following:

The operational reference/name (if applicable) for this case.

The number of officers involved in the arrest and confirmation of body-worn camera usage.

Confirmation of whether body-worn video (BWV) footage exists relating to:

- a. The arrest of the 39-year-old woman***
- b. Any prior police visits to the victim's address***

A general description of the available footage (length, location, content).

Whether any footage has been reviewed by the IOPC.

Any GMP press statements or internal reports made public about this incident.

The current legal status of the case.

I also request access to body-worn video footage from the arrest and any welfare visits, subject to appropriate redaction. This request is made in the public interest, given the vulnerable status of the victim, the prior involvement of GMP, and the referral to the IOPC.

If full disclosure is not possible, please provide a partial disclosure, a summary or transcript, and guidance on whether footage may be available through other channels (e.g. post-trial or by subject access request).

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 exemption applies.

The exemptions that apply to the information requested are:

Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities. Section 40(2) - Personal Information

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

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

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such crimes are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating crimes of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

It would also have an impact on the future law enforcement capabilities of GMP, as it would disclose policing investigative techniques, thus hindering any future prevention or detection of crime.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to 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.