

Date: 24th June 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014906/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014906/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I wish to know how many Osman warnings (threats to life/safety) were handed to persons on the 7th of June 2025 And in what manner were they presented to the person's And the names and collar numbers of the constables assigned to this task for that day

CLARIFICATION

I basically just mean how many were issued on said date and also how were they issued for example by post or hand delivered.

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 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 exemptions apply.

The exemptions which apply to this request are:

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

Section 38(1) – Health and Safety

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

With Section 38 being prejudice based qualified exemptions there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosing or withholding information as well as carrying out the public interest test.

Harm

This Act provides the public with a general right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. However, information disclosed under the Act is effectively released into the public domain, or to the 'wider world', and not only to the person making the request.

Osman warnings are submitted and issued on a regular basis to individuals. The reason for withholding data for a specific date alone, is that potentially if multiple requests are put in with only a small difference in dates, then inadvertently the force could release low figures that might allow individuals to be identified or to let offenders know whether or not their threats were received by the victim. Due to the seriousness and sensitivity of the subject matter, there is a real risk to both the physical and mental health of the victims involved including their family members and close friends.

Protecting the safety of the public is of paramount importance to GMP and information that would compromise such health and safety would not be disclosed within a response to a Freedom of Information request.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

There would be better awareness may also lead to better public debate, as it could be seen how GMP are using its resources to tackle crime and disorder.

Furthermore, there is always a need to disclose information which relates to the spending of public money. It is in the public's interest to see how resources are balanced across GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Breaking down the data to a specific date could be harmful and place individuals at risk and it is likely that individuals could be identified and located which will then undermine policing by creating not only a fear of crime but the occurrence of crime. It is of paramount importance that those who have been issued Osman warnings are protected.

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, which needs to be weighed against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure, which in this case is the likelihood of individuals being put at risk. The safety of all individuals is of paramount importance and the Force would not detrimentally impact on that safety by disclosing harmful information in response to a Freedom of Information request.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemptions and withhold the information from disclosure.

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