

Date: 19th June 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014647/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014647/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information about your procurement of any

- (i) external Data Protection Officer (DPO),
(ii) Data protection GDPR compliance services for the period FY2022-23 to FY2024-25:***

1. Current DPO arrangements

1.1 Is the organisation's DPO and other staff that work on data protection compliance:

- (a) An internal employee
(b) A DPO provided by an external service provider
(c) Hybrid (internal staff with external service provider support)***

1.2 Where services are provided by external providers, please share the following information:

- (a) The Company name(s)
(b) Annual spend by your organisation (FY2022/2023 through to FY2024/2025)
(c) The highest day rate paid
(d) Contract dates (start/end/renewal terms)
(e) A brief description of the project or services provided (for instance, project title or internal reference)
(f) Services covered (e.g., audits, breach management, SAR management, delivery of DPIAs)***
• ***Please indicate what deliverables were produced***
• ***Procurement method (e.g., open competition, framework agreement, direct award) and name of the procurement framework, if applicable.***

2. Consultancy Spend

2.1 What is the organisation's, total annual expenditure on data protection/GDPR consultancy services?

2.2 For SoW/projects which have a spend of more than £5k), please share the following information:

- **Supplier company name**
- **The scope of the Project (e.g., "ICO investigation support";, DPIA support, Internal Audit recommendation support)**
- **Spend**
- **Procurement method**

3. Data Protection Compliance staffing

3.1 The Number of in-house data protection staff in the organisation?

(FTE)

3.2 Are there any vacant roles? (Yes/No)

3.3 Where there any ICO investigations, audits, or enforcement actions for the period from FY2022/2023 to FY 2024/2025?

4. Future Plans

4.1 Is your organisation planning to put out to tender for any DPO/GDPR services in the current financial year?

4.2 If yes please provide the following:

Expected timeline

Budget range

Key service requirements

Procurement method

Fulfilment of this request

Format: Prefer CSV/Excel, Word or PDF or any commonly used filetype format.

If fulfilling the full request would exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Act, please provide as much of the information as possible within the limit, and advise me under your obligations in Section 16 on how I may refine the request to bring it within scope.

Deadline: 20 working days.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request at your earliest convenience.

If you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact 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 the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemption applies.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 exemption which applies to questions 1.2b, 1.2c, 2.1 and 2.2 is:

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests

Section 43(2) is a prejudice based and qualified exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

To disclose the information asked for within this request may prejudice the Force's future commercial interests and tender process. Disclosure will likely leave GMP in a position where it is not able to negotiate the best value for money in the future and may also prejudice the commercial interests of those providing services to GMP, as external agencies may set certain prices depending on a variety of factors. If the price provided to GMP is different to costs set to other agencies, this could jeopardise the interests of these providers. This could decrease competition for our business, and costs could increase as a result.

Factors favouring disclosure

The factors considered in favouring the disclosure of the information requested are as follows:

Disclosure would provide better understanding, accountability and justification as to how GMP spends public funds.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Factors against the disclosure of information are:

Disclosure of expenditure could damage any future tender processes, as contractors would be aware of how much money GMP pay for a particular service. Therefore, this could give an unfair advantage to other companies applying for such contracts with GMP. To disclose such information would leave GMP in a vulnerable position in respect of a civil action being brought against GMP by the contractor.

If the information was to be disclosed it would likely harm GMP's economical use of public funds for such said contracts, as the cost could be used as a 'benchmark' to other companies who apply for future contracts. This could prevent GMP from getting the best value for money. In light of this to disclose the requested expenditure information would prejudice the interests of GMP in regards to future contracts.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be that there would be a better public understanding of how GMP spends public funds. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which, in this case is damage that may be caused to GMP & service providers in relation to future contracts. In this instance, the case for disclosure is not made out.

Response

Question 1.1

- a – Yes
- b – No
- c – DPO and Information Compliance Team are all hybrid workers.

Question 1.2

- a – Advent
- b – exempt Section 43(2)
- c – exempt Section 43(2)
- d – Contract started 01/08/2021 and expired 31/07/2022 followed by an exemption until 31/07/2023
- e – Outsourced Data Protection Services
- f - Services included:

- DPO Service;
- DPIA reviews.
- Development of remediation action plans.
- Information asset audits.
- Working with management to provide mentoring, advice and guidance on a range of DP related issues.
- Working with GMP to scope their environment, identifying data flows and potential areas where breaches might occur.
- Developing policies and supporting production of associated procedures and processes to meet the requirements of the DPA and GDPR.
- Liaise with internal and external partners on behalf of the Force.

Contract was procured via G Cloud 12 following a compliant process.

Question 2

Q2.1 – exempt Section 43(2)

Q2.2 – exempt Section 43(2)

Question 3

Q3.1 – 11FTE including the DPO.

Q3.2 – No

Q3.3 – 1 Practice Recommendation regarding FOI (February 2023) and 1 Reprimand (December 2024)

Question 4

Q4.1 – No

Q4.2 – N/A