

Date: 06/06/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014769/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014769/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Q1 - Since March 2024, has GMP received any requests from United Utilities, by any channel of communication, to police its reservoirs in order to deter or prohibit swimming? If yes, has GMP complied with these requests in any form?

Q2 - Has GMP received any kind of payment or financial support from United Utilities with the aim of establishing or increasing a police presence at its reservoirs?

Q3 - Has GMP elected to station a PCSO on the Lower Gorton Reservoir for the summer 2025 period with the aim - in part or in full - of intervening in allegations of civil trespass and/or unauthorised swimming?

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would not be able to respond to part 1 of this request without conducting a comprehensive manual review. We received 1,777,699 total contacts (999 Calls, 101 calls, Live Chat and Online reporting) from March 2024 – April 2025 inclusive and each of these would need to be reviewed to understand if any relate to this request as we do not have a field to identify the information being requested. A further review would be needed by contacting all districts and all individual units within each district to see if any requests have been made to ensure we have checked all “**channel of communication**” as per question 1.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the removal of question 1.

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 2.

No information held.

Question 3.

No information held in relation to trespassing, however risks posed by open / dangerous water will be well known to local officers.

This will form part of 'safe for summer' initiatives, promoted by all emergency services.

Local officers will determine their patrol plans based on the issues presented in their areas.

During good weather, this could include open water, which poses a risk to those who trespass & swim.

Any interventions will be from a concern for safety standpoint, which is part of the core functions of the police – to keep people safe.