

Date: 01/05/2025

Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014557/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014557/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting any correspondence, briefings, or directives from central government figures concerning the Yorkshire Ripper (Peter Sutcliffe) case received by Greater Manchester Police between January 1, 1975 and December 31, 1982.

Please include any documentation involving Margaret Thatcher, both in her capacity as Leader of the Opposition (1975-1979) and Prime Minister (1979-1982), or other senior officials such as William Whitelaw.

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to your request. Given the length of time that has passed for your request, the information if held, would no longer be easily located, and retrieved. Any documents would need to be searched for within GMP's storage facilities to see if we hold any files relating to this request. Given the time at which these incidents would have taken place, the data requested would more than likely be held in paper form and so the whole case load would need to be reviewed and this could be 0-hundreds of documents. Given the enormity of this task, GMP would not be able to complete this within under 18hrs.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information Compliance & Records Management Unit, Information Management Branch, Greater Manchester Police Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2NS