

Date: 22/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014806/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014806/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Has the company [REDACTED] requested, and been given Police Special Services under section 25 of The police Act 1996, in the Greater Manchester Police area, in the last 3 years.

Result of Searches

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

There is no centrally held record of Special Policing Services (SPS) requests and in order to provide such data would require each division, sub-division and possible each individual officer to undertake necessary searches to establish if this has happened and if so on how many occasions. The substantial review would need to be carried out to understand if we hold the information you are seeking and as such this request would far exceed the 18hrs permitted to provide a response.

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.

Please note:

As previously advised under Ref's ending 01/FOI/25/014541/M and 01/FOI/25/014732/R in GMPs response to your FOI request, there is no centrally held record of Special Policing Services (SPS) and both FOI's along with the above have now been refused under S12(2) as we are not able to answer this request without a thorough manual search. Therefore, any further requests of a manifestly similar nature about Police Special Services under section 25, will be considered vexatious and will be refused under grounds of 'Unreasonable persistence'.

Section 17(6) of the act states that there is no need to issue a refusal notice if an applicant has already been warned (Today - 22/05/25) that they will not receive any response to further requests of the same or similar topic.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/section-14-dealing-with-vexatious-requests/section-17-6-and-refusal-notices/>