

Date: 20/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015712/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015712/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

All electronic and written correspondence (including copies of any attachments eg to emails) from and to the force regarding requests for so-called takedowns ie requests to remove part or all of a FOI/EIR request or response, from the WhatDoTheyKnow website.

(https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fhelp%2Fico_officers&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomOfInformation%40gmp.police.uk%7C45da6b10c84f41c7c14208de117619ea%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C638967396262159774%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiBwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HkvXw42jf0HmbluR1TT%2BYkzTVBpqZWVFuhsL7hyZVIM%3D&reserved=0)

As well as correspondence on any workspace chat software such as the chat function on Microsoft Teams, please include all correspondence including contacts representing the following organisations:

- 1. WhatDoTheyKnow or mySociety***
- 2. NPCC Central Referral Unit or National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit***
- 3. Information Commissioner's Office***

Clarification - For my original points 1-3, to be clear I wanted to ask for correspondence including contacts from the named organisations related to those so-called "take down" requests to Whatdotheyknow.com only:

- 1. WhatDoTheyKnow or mySociety***

- 2. NPCC Central Referral Unit or National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit**
- 3. Information Commissioner's Office**

Can you please provide the correspondence from the start of the calendar year 2015 to date?

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. GMP would not hold any information of this nature in one central location as anyone from the force would be able to contact either party. While the Information Access unit within GMP would be the main source of contact with such sites under the freedom of information banner, to know if any correspondence from anywhere across GMP including on chat functions to the WhatDoTheyKnow /mySociety platforms would require a manual review by contacting every unit and asking them to perform a search and the same would apply for any that reference and are connected to the ICO and NPCC. Due to the broadness of this request, and the level of work required, to confirm whether the information is held would take over 18 hours.

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, due to the scale of review for this request, 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 Access Unit, Information Management and Data Directorate, Greater Manchester Police, Openshaw Complex,
Lawton Street, Manchester, M11 2NS