

Date: 26/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015813/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015813/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like information to clarify aspects of GMP Stop Search processes as detailed below.

It is documented on GMP Website that a Person subject of a Stop Search does not have to provide personal details (or indeed verbally engage with officers conducting a Stop Search. The only time this changes is if the person subject of a Stop Search is being reported for an offence.

Each person is entitled to a Copy of the Stop Search as per policy. This can be written on scene of search.

Q1. Do GMP officers have to carry Stop Search Record Form Paperwork which can be completed at the time of a Stop Search?

If the officer is not carrying hard copies of Stop Search records, they are being advised that a record can be emailed to them electronically.

Q2. If a person does not want to identify themselves, as is their right, why do they have to provide Email Addresses which can be used to Identify a Person therefore surrendering their right to anonymity?

It is also being suggested by officers that a person who has been subject of a Stop Search can obtain a record of Stop Search from the Local Police Stn and that this can take time (often days). This also impacts the person even further if they are not from the local area, where they would be forced to make unnecessary journeys (likely at personal cost) to retrieve such a copy of completed Stop Search records.

Q3. Are persons forced to visit a Police Stn entitled to be reimbursed for Travel costs incurred to do so because records were not completed at the time of search? If so what is the process? If not why not?

But another issue of concern is to do this the person requesting a copy of their Stop Search Record has to provide their ID at the point of collection again negating and cancelling their right to anonymity as part of their entitlement requirements of a Stop Search.

It is clearly documented many persons subject of a Stop Search request a copy of the Record of Search and clearly some officers try and insist, a person subject of a negative Stop Search, provide personal details for them to complete their electronic records on either handheld devices or Police Notebooks.

Q4. Do Paper Stop Search Record Receipts have an independent Serialised Reference on the forms making each Stop Search identifiable from that reference?

Q5. As this personal info is not mandated to be provided why do officers often appear to insist it is a requirement to enable a Stop Search record to be completed using either Hand written records or Electronically?

Q6. Why does a person have to surrender Personal ID to collect a Stop Search Record from a Police Stn again surrendering their right to anonymity as the current Stop Search Legislation entitles a person to have?

Q7. Is this Identification recorded by Police / Police Staff at the Police Stn?

Q8. If So, Why, when it is not required for the completion of Stop Search Records?

Q9. What happens to that Personal Identification information once provided to GMP Officer or Staff at the desk?

Q10. Is there a mandated time stipulation where a Stop Search Record must be uploaded to Police Systems after a Stop Search?

Q11. Each record of Stop Search should be documented on Police Systems whether it becomes a Negative or Positive Stop Search and therefore will have Unique Reference/Record generated on Police Systems along with relevant Use of Force records (ie Handcuffs).

Q12. Why is that Unique Reference not suffice to retrieve a Record of Stop Search which would allow a person to retain their right to anonymity?

Q13. It is clear some Officers are refusing to provide documentation, receipts or even references of a Stop Search and instead insisting this can be collected from a Police Stn without providing any reference number or record which could be used to identify a record of Search on Police Systems. Do GMP Officers have to provide a reference to a person who has been subject of a Stop Search at the scene of the Stop Search or can they simply walk away leaving the person with no record of Search?

Q14. What information must be provided by GMP Officers to persons subject of a Stop Search on conclusion of a Negative result search (no offence recorded)?

Providing this information will provide clarity on GMP Stop Search policy, provide clarity on the obligations of GMP Officers conducting Stop Searches, provide an insight into why personal ID is required to collect a Stop Search record which was not completed at the time of Search negating a persons right to anonymity as per legislation, provide clarity as to what happens to such information and will hopefully clarify procedures to negate the need to

disclose personal information to obtain an entitled copy of record of search and identify a process where the person Subject of a Stop Search can lawfully obtain an entitled copy of a Stop Search Record without having to be further impacted by being forced to travel to a Police Stn, at their own personal expense.

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.

Section 84 of FOIA relates to recorded information held by a public authority and that it does not extend to providing explanations unless the answers are already held in a recorded form.

"Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

As such, within the spirit of the Act, while information may not held in a recorded form I have attempted to answer this request for you, however questions 5 and 11 do not qualify as a request for information held.

1. Officers do not have to carry the paper form for Stop and Search as this is available on their electronic handheld devices. All stop and searches are advised that a record can be emailed across to them.
2. A request for an email address is so they can be offered a copy of their Search record electronically as per legislation.
3. No individual is "forced" to visit a police station to obtain a copy of their stop and search as this is a personal choice option and therefore no financial compensation at the Tax Payers expense is available or provided. A copy of the search record can of course be posted out to the person being searched. If they choose not to provide details or even an email address, then that is their choice, and they should if they want a copy of the search record accept that they will have to make their own arrangements to obtain a copy of the search record.
4. Paper records contain a reference number.
5. N/A
6. A request for ID is to ensure the correct personal record is provided to the right person only. Without such safeguards data could be wrongly obtained by anyone and shared/accessed, resulting in a breach of Data Protection legislation and compromising a person's personal details with a unknown third party.
7. ID is checked at a Police station to confirm the attending person's identity and ensure data protection legislation is complied with regarding lawful disclosure, no copy is made/stored of ID and held on file.
8. Without formal ID, a request for personal information cannot be provided.
9. ID is checked at a Police station to confirm the attending person's identity and ensure data protection legislation is complied with regarding lawful disclosure, no copy is made/stored of ID and held on file.
10. This is done automatically on the electronic device an officer carries, for paper records this is submitted before the officers duty concludes.
11. N/A
12. A unique Reference does not comply with the data protection legislation, as this does not confirm the applicant is who they say they are, relevant ID is to ensure personal information is not shared/disclosed to an unauthorised person.
13. Any persons searched is notified of a copy of the search record being available and access to this.

14. This outcome is the same as if a positive search result, albeit no arrest or further process is undertaken.