



Date: 26/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015446/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015446/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would like to request a copy of your policies on Family Liaison Officers, in particular, in relation to their deployment in the case of families bereaved by suicide.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. *What guidance do you follow for the deployment of family liaison officers?*
 - (a) *National Police Chiefs Council found here: Working with victims and witnesses | College of Policing*
 - (b) *Your own guidance or policies, if so, please may you provide a copy*
 - (c) *Other, please detail what these are*
2. *Does your guidance allow for the deployment of Family Liaison Officer's in the case of families bereaved by suicide?*
 - (a) *Yes, if so, please detail the requirement for deployment*
 - (b) *No, if not please detail the reason for this*

If you require any clarification to process this request, please let me know as soon as possible. As per the Act, I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

I would be grateful for your co-operation on this.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by GMP.

GMP do not have a specific Family Liaison Officer (FLO) policy. GMP follow National guidance from the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) when deploying FLOs.

In relation to the question regarding supporting families bereaved by suicide, we do not routinely deploy FLOs in these cases. This is because the core purpose of a FLO is as an investigator. This is in relation to criminal investigations acting as a conduit between the family and investigation team. Where the police believe the circumstances support the fact that someone has taken their own life, we are still required to investigate on behalf of the coroner as in the case of other unexplained deaths. However, this would not necessarily require the deployment of FLOs.

There may be occasions on a case-by-case basis where a deployment is necessary. The most likely is where we believe a crime has been committed or a critical incident has been declared and, as above, the deployment of FLOs might enhance the effectiveness of the police response. This is on a case-by-case basis and would be a professional discussion between the Senior Investigating Officer and a trained Family Liaison Coordinator.

Part of the FLO role is to ensure we comply with the Victims' Codes and relevant support services are notified and offer their support to the bereaved family. However, this would not in itself lead to the deployment of FLOs.

Further information may be available from the NPCC.