



Date: 19/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015396/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015396/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

In light of recent public safety concerns and the lack of a public statement, I am requesting confirmation of the following information regarding an incident that occurred in Stalybridge.

Video footage, which has been published on social media, shows a Greater Manchester Police vehicle at the junction of Hollins and Tame Street in Stalybridge. The footage also shows a motorbike, identified as a "Surron" type, on the pavement and a uniformed officer walking away with what appears to be a "zombie-style knife."

This request is made to help inform the public and reduce speculation regarding the incident and any related public safety concerns.

I am requesting the following information:

- 1. Can GMP confirm the date and time of the incident at the junction of Hollins and Tame Street in Stalybridge?*
- 2. Can GMP confirm the nature of the incident, specifically whether it involved a police collision, a decampment, or another event?*
- 3. Can GMP confirm that a weapon, described as a "zombie-style knife," was recovered at the scene?*
- 4. Can GMP confirm if this incident was part of or related to Operation Venture?*
- 5. Can GMP confirm the circumstances regarding the "Surron" type motorbike seen at the scene?*

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 the information you have requested is held by GMP.

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. However, I am not obliged to provide the information requested as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemptions which apply to this request are:

Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means and Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

I can confirm that [this post on the GMP Tameside Facebook page](#) relates to the incident in question. As the matter is still before the courts, any further information is exempt under Section 30. Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the information requested into the public domain would show GMP's accountability and satisfy the public that investigations into the incident are being conducted. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about the investigation, however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to prosecutions that remain ongoing may seriously undermine the criminal justice process and the defendant's right to a fair trial.

Whilst this case might be seen as high profile by some, to disclose any details may still hinder the criminal justice process.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on the criminal justice process. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.