

Date: 29/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015188/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015188/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

A list of all the new models or types of equipment classed as "less lethal equipment" (including but not limited to restraints, incapacitant sprays, Conducted Energy devices or tasers, and Attenuating Energy projectiles such as baton rounds) that your constabulary procured between January 2022 and March 2025

Less lethal equipment or weaponry can be defined as equipment designed to incapacitate an individual or group, mitigating a threat without causing permanent or serious injury or death. Could this be broken down by:

- The date of procurement.***
- The number of pieces of equipment procured.***
- The name of the company that the equipment was procured from.***

Clarification - I am referring to the date that the order was placed.

As for the specific equipment that I am looking for, I am searching for any equipment that falls within these categories:

- Restraint equipment***
- Incapacitant chemicals***
- Conducted Energy Devices, such as tasers***
- Attenuating Energy Projectiles, otherwise known as less lethal ammunition.***
- Acoustic devices***

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.

However, I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested as an exemption applies.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 date of procurement and the suppliers name is exempt under **section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The response to this request is available online. Please follow the link below.

[Sell2](#)

Any other contract information that is not published on the Bluelight website has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement**

Sections 31 requires Harm and Public Interest Test, which can be found below.

Harm

The release of some contractual information specifically around contract description, supplier name and product used by Greater Manchester Police, could reveal capabilities available to the force and consequently give important information to those with criminal intent. The release of this information combined with detailed information readily available on the internet, would allow criminals to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our capabilities. They would be able to use information in planning terrorist and criminal acts.

The release of this information would therefore impact on the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of terrorists and criminals and increase the fear of crime in the community Greater Manchester Police seeks to serve.

Factors favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in knowing how public money is being spent in ensuring value for money both at the point of purchase, and also in respect of what those resources are to be used for.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

There is a strong public interest in ensuring Greater Manchester Police's effective law enforcement capability. Disclosure of supplier identities and product information together with contract descriptions would mean that individuals could research details about capabilities available to the force. This may allow terrorists and criminals the opportunity to assess strengths and any possible weaknesses of these capabilities. This would compromise law enforcement which could lead to more crime being committed and individuals being placed at risk. This information may also be used by criminals/terrorists in combination with other information they have gathered to try and disrupt law enforcement.

Balancing Test

It is my view that the public safety from non-disclosure is of greater importance than the advantage of public confidence from the disclosure of this information. Greater Manchester Police will not disclose information that could compromise the future law enforcement role of the force.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

From 01/01/2022-31-03-2025.

Supplier/Item	Quant Ordered
Limb Restraints	3335
Handcuffs	3800
Pava Spray	7382
Conducted Energy Devices, such as tasers	374
Attenuating Energy Projectiles, otherwise known as less lethal ammunition	368

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