

Date: 4th September 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015238/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015238/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the protests and public disorder that occurred outside Rochdale Police Station between 23 July 2024 and 25 July 2024, following the incident at Manchester Airport where two police officers were assaulted.

Specifically, I am seeking the following:

1. Incident Reports and Logs

- A summary of all incident reports and logs recorded by GMP relating to the protests outside Rochdale Police Station on 23-25 July 2024.

2. Investigations into Criminal Conduct

- Confirmation of whether GMP launched an investigation into video footage circulated on social media documenting masked individuals kicking the windows of Rochdale Police Station and throwing objects (reported to be eggs or other missiles) at the building.

- If such an investigation took place, please could you confirm the date the investigation was opened and whether it is ongoing or concluded.

3. Arrests and Outcomes

- The number of individuals arrested in connection with these events.

- A breakdown of alleged offences (e.g. public order offences, criminal damage, assault, etc.).

- Whether any individuals were charged, cautioned, or released under investigation.

To be clear, I am not requesting any personal or identifying information about individuals involved. If it is not possible to disclose precise figures due to ongoing investigations, I would be grateful for approximate numbers or any disclosable summaries.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please prioritise items 2 and 3 and advise me accordingly so I may revise or narrow the scope of the request.

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.

Question 1

Where redaction occurs (shown by XXX) within the below incident descriptions, this relates to Section 40(2) Personal Information, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Incident Descriptions
Information received of planned protest outside Rochdale police station. XXX
ABOUT 20 -30 PEOPLE HERE - HALF A DOZEN CARS
caller ringing from XXX saying XXX is going to be filming in 15 minutes outside the Rochdale police station
Protests in city centre and Rochdale. XXX outside Rochdale police station causing no issues.
Protestors outside the police station are shouting XXX. They are planning to attack the police station. XXX, seen on social media. XXX
XXX seen at the rear deck with cameras and have now walked off.

Question 2

Yes, the video footage relates to the investigation of criminal damage and violent disorder crimes.

Question 3

20 individuals were arrested in connection with 2 crimes. These crimes were criminal damage and violent disorder.

Further to the above response any further information in relation to question 2 and 3 has been exempt from disclosure.

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 that apply is

**Section 30(1)(2)(a) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.
Section 40(2) - Personal Information.**

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

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 exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating incidents of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publically release information from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

It would also have an impact on the future law enforcement capabilities of GMP, as it would disclose policing investigative techniques, thus hindering any future prevention or detection of crime.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to 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 GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

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.