

Date: 20th January 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016105/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016105/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide the following information, relating to Walmsley Bridge, Wigan, which connects Springfield to the Brick Community Stadium across the Leeds-Liverpool Canal:

Copies of all correspondence (including letters, emails, meeting minutes and other electronic communications) between Greater Manchester Police, and the below parties (or representatives of the same), in relation to the temporary matchday closure(s) of Walmsley Bridge:

- 1) Wigan Athletic Football Club***
- 2) Wigan Warriors Rugby League Club***
- 3) Wigan Sports Group (Wigan Sporting Events Ltd)***
- 4) Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council***

Result of Searches

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

Please see attached the relevant correspondence noting the below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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.

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

Where redaction occurs within the attached document, 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.

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge
Date: 29 December 2025 15:37:28

Hi All,

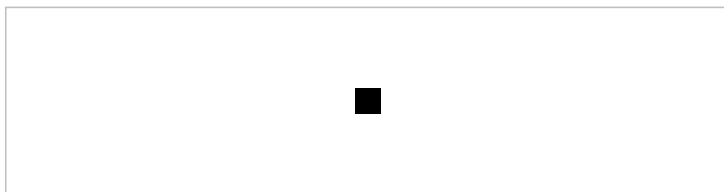
Hope you've all had a lovely Christmas .

Just an update ahead of the match on New Years Day:

- I've spoken to _____ today who has confirmed that the club only want to put the message out tomorrow re the bridge closure, and that he will share this with me (and I will then share with our press office _____)
- GMP are unable to police the Miry Lane end of the bridge, and so _____ if our highways team witness any fans trying to remove the fencing, can they contact PC _____ please.

Thanks

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www.facebook.com/WiganCouncilOnline#



From:
Sent: 24 December 2025 11:59
To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Thanks for sharing _____ and for meeting with us earlier. As agreed:

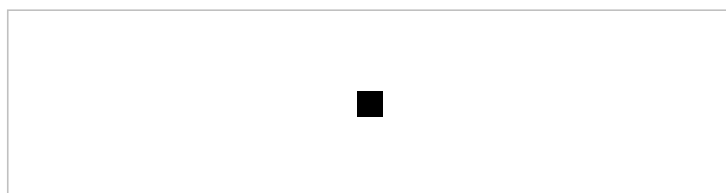
- We will instal the Heras fencing at 12:00 on 1 Jan, and remove it at 6:00
- you will have a steward at the stadium side of the bridge, and hopefully you can have somebody at the Miry Lane end (can you confirm this asap please)
- Comms to go our next week from the Stadium and the Council-ideally Monday, so if you could confirm asap that the Board are happy.
- Signage to advise of the footbridge closure at key locations (on the 2 exits from the stadium and under the bridge at Beresford Street). Also, at Robin Retail Park and on Woodhouse Lane. These will also all need removing when we remove the fencing at 6.
- I will put another meeting in ahead of the Bolton fixture on 17th Jan.

Thanks all for the great team effort

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From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 11:08

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Hi

As promised, please find as per the below a list of the upcoming matches at the Brick Community Stadium.

Wigan Athletic

Date 2026	Kick off	WAFC v :
1 st Jan	15.00	Barnsley
17 th Jan	12.30	Bolton

31 st Jan	15.00	Lincoln
10 th Feb	19.45	Reading
14 th Feb	15.00	Rotherham
17 th Feb	19.45	Luton
28 th Feb	15.00	Huddersfield

Wigan Warriors

Date 2026	Kick off	WRLFC v :
1 ST Feb	15.00	Testimonial
21 st Feb	20.00	Hull FC
26 TH Feb	20.00	Leigh

Regards

From:

Sent: 23 December 2025 5:45 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: Re: Walmsley Bridge

Thanks and I'll sort a time out tomorrow when hopefully we can meet on site to sort the detail.

Thanks

From:
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 4:53:58 PM
To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Hi

Thank you for today, I am on site tomorrow until 12.30 if your team want to meet at the bridge.

I have shared with the first draft of the press release as per the below with our press office, they will get back shortly.

has my mobile if needed.

Regards

From:
Sent: 23 December 2025 4:02 PM
To:

Cc:

Subject: Walmsley Bridge

Hi All,

Thanks so much for joining the meeting earlier and just waiting for some idea as to how long it will take to install the Heras fencing on the day, so we can agree times etc for the closing and re-opening .

I can get my teams to install but would be good if the Stadium and GMP could agree to protect the fencing from any criminal damage that may then enable access to the bridge (, I think you said you could cover the Stadium end. could you cover the Miry Lane end?)

Please see draft release below for your consideration-we've kept it very brief, so hopefully it will be ok from GMP's perspective

⚠ Important update on access to The Brick Community Stadium via Walmsley Bridge ⚠

Please be aware that Walmsley Bridge, which connects Springfield to the stadium across the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, will be closed for the Wigan Athletic v Barnsley game on 1 January 2026 between xxxx and xxxx.

This is an interim measure and is in the interests of public safety.

Stadium management, Wigan Council and Greater Manchester Police will be working together to find a long-term solution.

Please make alternative arrangements so you can get to the match in plenty of time. Access to the stadium will be possible via Stadium Way.

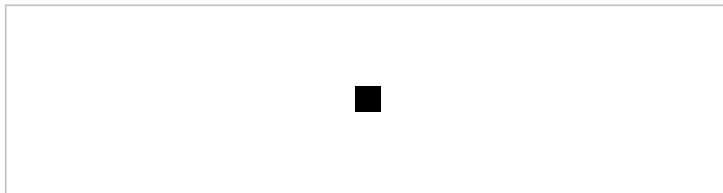
My Ops team are visiting tomorrow to work up the logistics, so will drop you an email update after that.

Thanks

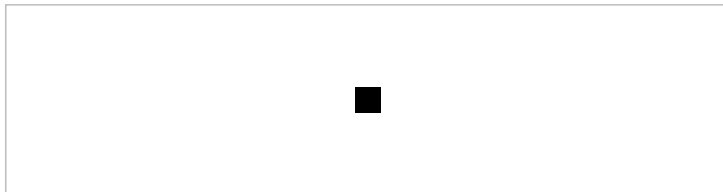
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From:
To:
Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge
Date: 24 December 2025 12:14:57

Caution: This email came from outside GMP. Do not open attachments, click on links or scan QR codes in this email unless you recognise the sender's e-mail address and know the content is safe.

Thanks , and will remove you from the planned release.

Thanks

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From:
Sent: 24 December 2025 09:50
To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

CAUTION External E-Mail: Take extra care before clicking links, attachments and actioning requests. Think Before you Click

Thanks for sending through, I have spoken to my Ch Supt and we would not want GMP to be in the press release. We understand about the partnership element, but this is about the safety of the bridge which is not a policing point it is a structural concern.

If you need to speak, I am on the below mobile number

Thanks

Specialist Operational Planning unit

Greater Manchester Police

From:

Sent: 23 December 2025 16:02

To:

Cc:

Subject: Walmsley Bridge

Hi All,

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we can agree times etc for the closing and re-opening .

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Thanks

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From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: WAFC v BWFc 2nd Silver
Date: 24 December 2025 11:43:55

Morning all,

and I have just returned from a site meeting at the bridge with

During the meeting we discussed exactly where to close off the bridge and how to achieve it.

The plan is for council operatives , on the Miry Lane side to attach fencing right and left of the entrance to the alley way prior to getting to the bridge, they will also attach fencing to the steps on the stadium side of the bridge, with regards to the stadium side the fencing will wrap around the steps to prevent anyone scaling the railings.

Signs will be place by the council on the fencing advising of the closure, further signage will be place on the north and south Douglas Bridges along with areas on Miry Lane.

The club usually have car park stewards in proximity to the bridge, they will also be briefed to advise fans / redirect fans with regards to the closure, to be clear they won't intervene if the fence is tampered with our if anyone decides to breach the fence.

Obviously, there is quite a bit more to discuss with regards to alternative routes, times we are closing the bridge

No problem facilitating a meeting at the stadium, can you provide date, time, and numbers.

I suggest that and her team are also present.

I agree with we need to be calling a SAG , I'm not sure who is chairing the SAG in copying in
and perhaps they can provide clarity on this, I'm happy to take a call if you are not up to speed with this situation tel

Regards



From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 10:41 AM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: WAFC v BWFc 2nd Silver

We may need to consider an Emergency Sag as well but we can take learnings from Barnsley first.

From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 10:37 AM

To:

Cc:

Subject: WAFC v BWFc 2nd Silver

Good morning

With the issues around the bridge an invitation has been extended to key GMP officers working the fixture to understand the dynamics around re-routing of fans etc. on the Miry lane side of the canal. There should not be a requirement for you attend that but as such with many of the GMP being on / close to the site would it be possible to conduct the Silver meeting from the stadium in the Carling lounge ?

We would look to tag the Silver meeting after the site visit so Bronzes and others are then familiar with the requirements for their plans. A teams facility would still be available for those unable to attend in person.

Any assistance to facilitate this would be welcome.

Regards

Specialist Operational Planning Unit – Football & Events