



Date: 10/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016352/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016352/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Which software is used when dealing with underexposed images? Please provide the name and version of the software currently in use.*
- 2. Please confirm if your organisation uses any automated or manual assisted tools to enhance poor-quality images for CCTV footage collected.*
- 3. Please confirm whether your organisation uses any AI- based technology software to enhance underexposed images? Please provide the name of the software and the version.*

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

The information you have requested in question 1 is exempt under **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**. S31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and there is a requirement to provide evidence of the harm that would be caused by disclosure and to conduct a public interest test.

Harm

Release via the Freedom of Information Act is deemed release into the public domain. Therefore, whatever information is held, would allow criminals to accurately evaluate the capability of Greater Manchester Police and the systems we use. Such detailed knowledge would allow criminals to make a judgement regarding the systems we use and therefore take measures to target the force.

Public Interest Test

Considerations Favouring Disclosure

Disclosing information about systems which are used by police would provide a greater transparency in their actions and ensure that they operate effectively and efficiently. There is a public interest in public authorities operating in as transparent a manner as possible, as this should allow the public to understand how the force spends public money.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure

Where current or future law enforcement role of the force may be compromised by the release of information, then this is unlikely to be in the interest of the public. Providing information on our forensic systems may be more harmful because it would reveal a picture of force capability and capacity in a highly sensitive area. If disclosed, information about such systems could identify potential vulnerabilities which could be exploited by criminals, leaving the force more susceptible to cyber-attack and hacking. Infiltration of police systems by hackers would significantly undermine the force ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders.

Balancing Test

For a public interest test, issues that favour disclosure need to be measured against issues that favour non-disclosure. The public interest is not what interests the public, or a particular individual, but what will be the greater good, if released, to the community as a whole. We recognise that the public interest in being open and transparent is of great importance to all and release of information may assist in the public being more aware of the work that the police are carrying out. However, 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.

The remainder of your request is not exempt and is provided below.

1. Exempt under S31, see above.
2. GMP use manual-assisted tools only. No automated tools are used.
3. No AI tools are used for image enhancement.