

Date: 16/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016414/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016414/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please consider this information a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

The following questions are in relation to this passage, from the Draft Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies the draft statutory instrument 'The Public Order Act 2023 (Interference With Use or Operation of Key National Infrastructure) Regulations 2025. "Consultation for the option of amending Section 7 has taken place informally via engagement with key stakeholders, including the National Police Chiefs' Council, the National Police Coordination Centre, and local police forces who regularly police protest activity targeting the Life Sciences sector. Stakeholders were clear that existing powers did not go far enough to tackle the behaviour threatening the viability of the sector to continue to operate in the UK. The option to amend Section 7 of the Public Order Act 2023 was the key outcome of the engagement. The affected parties are clear that once this amendment comes into force, it will have a positive operational impact. Consultation for this amendment took place informally due to the urgency of the threat to the Life Sciences sector as a result of disruptive protest activity."

1. *Was the force part of the above consultation?*
2. *If so, who was the force's representative?*

Result of Searches

Information relating to part one of your request is not held in an easily retrievable format, if it is indeed held at all. There is no centrally held record of consultations and in order to provide such data would require each division, sub-division and possibly each individual officer to undertake necessary searches to establish if they participated in this consultation.

To comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work and therefore exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. The only advice that GMP can give is that you specify a particular divisional area within GMP to make your request more manageable within the fees limit of the act, although this still may not be possible for even one divisional area.

I can inform you that I have asked GMP's Specialist Operations Planning Unit, who are responsible for the policing of planned protests, if they participated in this consultation and they have advised that they did not. However, to confirm whether any GMP officer or staff member participated would take over the allowed 18 hours.

I recommend that you contact the Home Office for this information. They may be able to inform you which local police forces participated in their consultation.