



Date: 23/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016460/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016460/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide recorded information held by your force relating to the period 1 January 2020 to present, in response to the following:

1. *Does your force use Ring doorbell or other smart doorbell footage as part of criminal investigations? (Yes / No)*
2. *If such footage is used, how frequently does it contribute to investigations? (Rarely / Occasionally / Frequently)*
3. *Is forensic image or video enhancement typically applied to Ring doorbell footage to improve its usability? (Yes / No / In some cases)*
4. *Has your force considered, trialled, or used AI-based image or video enhancement tools for processing Ring doorbell or other domestic CCTV footage? (Yes / No / Under consideration)*
5. *What are the most common technical or evidential challenges encountered when working with Ring doorbell footage? (For example: image quality, compression, lighting, motion blur, glare, distance, occlusion, or metadata issues.)*

6. *From your experience, what image features are most important when assessing the usefulness of Ring doorbell footage? (For example: clothing, carried objects, facial features, movement, or contextual background detail.)*
7. *If enhancement is applied, what factors influence whether the footage is considered suitable for evidential use rather than intelligence-only purposes?*
8. *Are there any concerns or limitations associated with the use of AI-based enhancement tools in forensic investigations that you consider particularly significant?*
9. *In your view, what safeguards or validation steps would be necessary for AI-enhanced imagery to be considered appropriate for evidential use in court?*

Thank you for your time and assistance. If further clarification is required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Result of Searches

Information is defined in Section 84 of the Freedom of Information Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action, or the opinions of officers or staff. As such, within the spirit of the Act, only questions 1, 3 and 4 qualify as valid requests for information held.

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 in questions 1, 3 and 4 is held by GMP.

1. Yes
3. In some cases
4. No.