

Date: 25/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016500/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016500/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I was employed as a police officer in GMP

As part of my employment I was required to provide my fingerprints and DNA for elimination purposes (crime scenes)

I would like to ask 4 things;

1- have my DNA and fingerprints now been destroyed?

2- if so, what date were they destroyed?

3- if not, when will they be destroyed and how will you inform me?

4- can you share GMP's policy in relation to this?

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 for question 4 is held by GMP.

Question 1-3 are not valid FOI questions and therefore have not been included in this FOI request.

Please see the relevant extract from GMP's Contamination Elimination Database policy April 2025.

From the below extract I have highlighted areas that are relevant to what is being asked.

Section 5.1

Fingerprint samples – Inked Fingerprint impressions are electronically captured and added to the Police Elimination Database stored on the Ident1 Fingerprint system. A hardcopy of the fingerprints will be retained in a secure location within Forensic Services. ***For police staff and agency staff, the fingerprints will be retained for a period of 12 months after the individual leaves a specified post and/or Force. The paper copy and electronic set of Fingerprints taken from police officers and special constables will be destroyed as soon as Forensic Services is notified via a weekly update from GMP's Human Resources team that the officer has left the organisation.***

DNA Samples – The DNA sample will be returned to the Forensic Reception, where it will be recorded and anonymised by removing the name of the individual and submitted to a Forensic Service Provider for processing. Once a profile has been generated from this sample it will be submitted to the National DNA Database for inclusion on the Contamination Elimination Database (CED). ***The DNA profile will be retained for a period of 12 months after the individual leaves a specified post and/or Force.***

Where samples are obtained as part of the biometric vetting process. The Fingerprint and DNA samples will be initially searched against the National Databases prior to any permanent load. The samples will only be loaded for continued retention upon notification of an applicant joining the organisation.

The DNA sample will be destroyed as soon as a profile is derived from the sample or, in any case, 6 months from date taken.