

Date: 19/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014989/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014989/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. Copies of all current and historical internal policies, procedures, and guidance documents relating to the use or consideration of polygraph testing in criminal investigations or offender management.

2. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or equivalent guidance used by GMP officers or staff when:

- * Deciding to impose a polygraph test as a condition;***
- * Referring an individual for testing;***
- * Interpreting, recording, or acting on polygraph results.***

3. Any legal assessments, policy justifications, Equality Impact Assessments, or human rights analyses prepared internally or externally in support of GMP's use of polygraph testing.

4. Copies of any memoranda of understanding, contracts, or agreements between GMP and external providers of polygraph testing services, including individual examiners or agencies.

5. The training materials, selection criteria, or internal communications used by GMP personnel (including officers in Public Protection Units or Offender Management Units) to guide decision-making on whether polygraph testing is appropriate and lawful in a given case.

6. Any records or reports relating to the oversight, review, audit, or governance of GMP's polygraph testing practices, including minutes from senior leadership meetings or professional standards inquiries.

7. **Statistical data (for the last three calendar years) on:**
* **The number of polygraph tests commissioned by GMP;**
* **The number of individuals subject to polygraph conditions with specific numbers relating to numbers subject to polygraph as part of "conditional caution" conditions;**
* **The number of cases in which polygraph results led to further investigation, detention, charge, or withdrawal of conditions.**

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to answer this FOI in full without carrying out a manual review for part of question 7. We do not hold centrally the information on "*The number of cases in which polygraph results led to further investigation, detention, charge, or withdrawal of conditions*". For question 7, over 200 records would be required to be reviewed at a conservative rate of 10 minutes per each case. This would equate to approximately 38hrs to respond to this question alone.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above 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. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with the removal of question 7. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.