

Date: 18th March 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016419/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016419/O

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

Did Greater Manchester Police request evidence that a legally compliant version of Reform UK's commissioned letter from [REDACTED] was sent to their printers [REDACTED] before the imprint was allegedly removed by [REDACTED] and an imprint-free version (which breaches electoral law) was sent to Gorton & Denton constituents?

I would like you to provide the information in the following format:
EMAIL

If you are encountering practical difficulties with complying with this request, please contact me as soon as possible (in line with your section 16 duty to advise and assist requesters) so that we can discuss the matter and if necessary I can modify the request.

If it is necessary for any reason to redact any information, please redact the minimum necessary and send me the rest of the material, explaining the legal grounds for each redaction.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide the information requested as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The request has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities

Section 30(1) is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details about evidence and the process of an investigation into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public that the investigation was being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, the disclosure sets a precedent as to how GMP responds over such questions which may inhibit the ability to prevent and detect crime in the future, as individuals may well be less inclined to co-operate with the police if they were aware that the information they provide, or is held by GMP would likely be disclosed to the world in circumstances sitting outside the criminal justice process.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is GMP's ability to prevent and detect future crime.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemptions and withhold the information from disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice.