

Date: 20/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016442/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016442/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*****Follow up to FOI/25/014555/S*****

REVISED REQUEST IN FULL, RE: OPERATION HEXAGON, 25.02.2026;

I hereby furnish the revised request in full, with minor corrections, and where questions have been revised, they have been marked as such, and where questions have been removed, they have been marked accordingly.

1.) Date and Duration –

- 1a.) When was Operation Hexagon initiated, and
1b.) What was its total duration?***

2.) Purpose and Objectives – REVISED.

- 2a.) What was the official scope of the operation?
2b.) Did it specifically relate to grooming gang investigations, child exploitation, or
2c.) the covert or open monitoring of individuals highlighting these issues, such as internal
whistleblowers for example, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and/or members of the general public?***

if so, please provide documents regarding these operational parameters, where reasonable to do so.

3.) Legal Authority – Under what statutory provisions or common law principles was Operation Hexagon authorised? Please state these in plain legal language.

4.) Operational Measures – What specific investigative methods were used, and/or which types of groups or individuals were subjected to police action under this operation? (This may be merged with scope number 6 if there is overlap of information).

5.) Role of Oldham Council – What involvement did Oldham Council have in the operation, and what inter-agency collaboration took place between GMP and the council? If any documents exist regarding this, please provide them.

6.) Arrests and Prosecutions REVISED. – What is the overall figure of combined convictions secured under Operation Hexagon? IF ANY.

7.) Budget and Expenditure – QUESTION REMOVED.

8.) Public Communications – Were any public advisories, internal reports, or media statements issued regarding the operation? If so, please provide copies or references.

9.) Oversight and Accountability – Have there been any internal or external reviews assessing the legality, conduct, and effectiveness of Operation Hexagon? If such reviews exist, please provide findings and reports where possible, providing, that such reports or documents, do not, prejudice any ongoing investigations still connected therewith to Operation Hexagon.

10.) Relevance to Grooming Gang Investigations – Was Operation Hexagon connected in any way to ongoing or previous investigations into grooming gangs? If so, what measures were taken to ensure that whistleblowers, campaigners, or survivors speaking out were not unfairly targeted?

I expect full disclosure where legally permissible.

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

As previously advised, GMP do not hold centrally the information you are requesting relating to arrests or convictions as per question 6 of this/previous FOI's. For this revised wording GMP would still be required to contact all officers to see which ones worked on the operation in question. Some officers may only have spent a brief period supporting but may hold vital information to provide a response to this and other elements of the request. A full list of the all the officers in charge is not stored in any central location for easy extraction and so this review would be the only way to establish what data we hold to provide an accurate reply. To conduct this review would exceed the 18hrs under the FOIA in which to respond.

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 6 in its entirety. Please note - if refined that there may still be exemptions applied to some material requested.* 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1 - Operation Hexagon ran from September 2019 to February 2022

Question 2 – This information is already available in the public domain via a google search. [operation hexagon - Google Search](#)

Question 8 - Yes

Question 9 - No