

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
**Our ref:** FOI/26/016637/W

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016637/W**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***I am seeking information as to the resolution to the "pigs head on family gate" incident in I believe Salford.***

- (1) Why was it automatically labelled as a hate crime?***
- (2) The people captured on CCTV could not be identified by that footage alone and could of come from any Community?***
- (3) The incident was sensationalised on National TV for two days, pushing this hate crime narrative***
- (4) I have been searching online for updates but cannot find any information on arrests or suspects?***
- (5) There is CCTV and ring doorbell footage everywhere these days, but I am yet to see a follow up of the original incident.***
- (6) Is it still being classed as a hate crime?***
- (7) If there is no conclusion to the incident, shouldn't there be an updated response, equal to the sensationalism of the initial report?***
- (8) If there is no information to alude to an hate crime, moving forward I do not think it is helpful to automatically assume just because the nature of the incident may point to this, after all human beings can be devious. Sometimes things in life are not always what they seem.***

**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, the information requested is exempt from disclosure as exemptions apply.

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 exemptions apply.

The exemptions that apply is

**Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.  
Section 40(2) – Personal Information.**

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

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

**Factors Favouring Disclosure**

To disclose the exempt information, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds investigating incidents of this nature.

**Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure**

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information from an investigation that remains open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigation to a full and correct conclusion.

It would also have an impact on the future law enforcement capabilities of GMP, as it would disclose policing investigative techniques, thus hindering any future prevention or detection of crime.

**Balancing Test**

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.