

Date: 03/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017260/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017260/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'm writing to request information held on purchases from data brokers between Jan 1st 2024 until the present date.

Please provide the following:

- 1. A list of all data brokers from which the police force has purchased information, including the following:*
 - a. How much the force has spent on each data broker, broken down by year*
 - 2. What categories of personal data does each data broker provide the police force with?*

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.

Question 1.

Experian Limited.

Recipero Limited.

They can be located via - [Sell2](#)

Question 1a.

Experian Limited.	
2024	£58,761.50
2025	£49,123.51

Jan 1 - 30 Jun 2026	£25,921.35
Recipero Limited.	
2024	£121,037.85
2025	£121,549.15
Jan 1 - 30 Jun 2026	£122,060.45

Question 2.

The credit agencies provide data relating to financial/credit checks such as age and name and address checks along with financial statuses.

In addition to each question above, GMP can neither confirm nor deny whether it holds any other information that you requested as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(3) – Criminal Investigations

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Evidence of Harm

A wide range of investigative methods are deployed by police in investigations and the gathering of evidence in order to bring the perpetrators of crime to justice, and where disclosure of information including, in some cases, confirming or denying information is held would risk prejudice to any such investigations it should not be given.

It must be considered that a disclosure under FOI is not a private transaction but rather a broadcast to the world. To confirm or deny that any other information is held in respect of ongoing covert investigations would risk revealing to criminals including organised criminal gangs, police intelligence and the focus of investigative activity particularly in financial and economic crime. Irrespective of whether any other information is or isn't held, ongoing covert investigations would be compromised if an offender were to be made aware of what may or may not be held about any specific lines of enquiry within covert investigations, namely the use of data brokers for intelligence gathering. To do so would enable them to take steps to alter their behaviour and/or destroy evidence, undermining the police's key functions of detecting crime and apprehending offenders.

Additionally, in order to ensure the police, deliver effective law enforcement they liaise with various other law enforcement partners. By confirming or denying that any other information is held in respect of covert ongoing investigations, not only would operationally law enforcement and investigations be compromised as evidenced above, but any partnership working that may be in place would also be compromised.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial

By confirming or denying that any other information relevant to your question exists would satisfy the public that the police take their responsibility to investigate crime thoroughly and that public money is well spent in securing evidence in criminal activity.

Section 30 - Factors Against Confirmation or Denial

By confirming or denying that any other information relevant to this question exists would hinder the protection of any operations the force has under the guise of covert activity that GMP would not want to be known by criminals. This information would be sensitive, and the force would not want them to adapt their offending behaviour in order to avoid detection.

Section 31 - Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial

Disclosure would provide transparency in how GMP investigate crime and provide reassurance that tactics are being utilised appropriately to prevent and detect criminal activity. It would also serve to demonstrate that the police are open and accountable.

Section 31 - Factors Against Confirmation or Denial

The police have a duty of care to the community at large. If an FOI disclosure revealed information to the world (by citing an exemption or stating no information held) that would undermine an investigation, this could be used to offenders' advantage and would compromise potential victims and the public generally. It may also encourage offenders to alter their behaviours resulting in further, undetected crime.

Balance Test

The factors above highlight the merits of confirming, or denying, whether any other information pertinent to this request exists. The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. As part of that policing purpose, various types of investigations may or may not be ongoing.

GMP will never divulge whether any other information pertinent to a request does or does not exist, if to do so would compromise an ongoing investigation, or undermine the policing purpose in the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and investigations it will be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

Therefore, at this moment in time the balance test for neither confirming nor denying that any other information is held is appropriate.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that further information does or does not exist.