

Friday, 31 July 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017321/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017321/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request clarification regarding your force's current policy d by police officers while on duty.

I understand that some UK police forces have reviewed or restricted the wearing of such patches on operational uniforms, including the Metropolitan Police Service, where officers have been instructed not to wear Thin Blue Line patches due to concerns regarding uniform standards, perceived impartiality, and public confidence.

Could you please confirm whether Greater Manchester Police permits, prohibits, or otherwise regulates the wearing of Thin Blue Line Union Jack patches by officers or staff as part of, or attached to, their official uniform?

I am seeking this information simply to better understand the approach taken by the force and how it aligns with wider policing standards across England and Wales.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request.

There is no specific mentioned on 'the Thin Blue Line patch' on our uniform policy.

According to Uniform and Dress Standards Policy & Procedure in regards to Velcro patches:

"5.2.3 Velcro patches or identifying badges

In certain operational situations there may be a reason to wear an identifying patch to signify

membership to an operational unit or the specific functionality of the wearing officer e.g. firearms

wear the velcro patch of red asterisk. It is on this basis that velcro patches are permitted where there

are clear operational reasons, purchase and supply will be via Business Support Services Stores.

- Other Velcro patches that have no authorised operational function code or symbol and are not police related but are linked to specific dates, celebrations or memorials are not permitted without clear authorisation from District/Branch Commanders.*
- These will be assessed on a case basis and wearing may be restricted to a particular timeframe e.g. wearing of the remembrance poppy during November.*
- It is not appropriate for officers and staff to purchase Velcro patches and wear these upon their uniform if they do not satisfy either of the above requirements.”*