

Date: 06/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017372/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017372/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information covering the period 20 April 2025 to 5 December 2025:

- 1. Copies of any correspondence (including emails, letters, or other written communications) between Greater Manchester Police and the University of Salford concerning allegations of a systemic rape cover-up at the University of Salford.***
- 2. Copies of any meeting minutes, agendas, notes, emails, or records of meetings between Greater Manchester Police and the University of Salford concerning this subject.***
- 3. Any anonymised reports, briefings, memoranda, assessments, or other records held by Greater Manchester Police relating to this subject, with personal data redacted where necessary.***

If any part of this request is considered exempt, I ask that you:

- disclose any reasonably severable non-exempt information;***
- explain which exemption(s) have been relied upon; and***
- provide the public interest considerations where the exemption is qualified.***

If you refuse any part of this request, please consider each item requested separately and confirm whether the requested information is held in relation to each individual item. Where information is withheld, please identify the specific exemption(s) relied upon for each item, explain why they apply, and, where the exemption is qualified, provide details of the public

interest test that has been carried out. If only part of the requested information is exempt, please disclose the remaining non-exempt information with appropriate redactions. Where personal data or operationally sensitive information cannot lawfully be disclosed, I request that it be redacted rather than withholding documents in their entirety wherever possible.

Clarification of scope

For the avoidance of doubt, this request is not a request for information relating to any individual criminal investigation, reported offence, victim, suspect, witness, or prosecution case.

The purpose of this request is to identify whether Greater Manchester Police held any institutional discussions, briefings, assessments, reviews, meeting records, or other communications with the University of Salford concerning allegations of a systemic rape cover-up, including whether such allegations were considered, assessed, reviewed, or determined not to warrant further action.

This request seeks information about organisational awareness, communication, and decision-making processes, rather than evidence, case files, or material relating to any specific criminal matter.

Public interest justification

Greater Manchester Police and the University of Salford have maintained longstanding institutional partnerships. This is relevant to the public interest in transparency regarding any communications between the two organisations.

There is a significant public interest in transparency where allegations concern the handling of serious sexual offences and the actions of public authorities, particularly in the current climate where the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and girls, institutional safeguarding, and public confidence in policing are subject to heightened public scrutiny. Disclosure would promote accountability by enabling the public to understand whether concerns of this nature were considered, assessed, or investigated by the relevant authorities and whether appropriate procedures were followed. If the allegations were examined and found to have no merit, disclosure of that fact would also serve the public interest by correcting misinformation and demonstrating that the concerns were appropriately addressed.

This request is not intended to obtain personal information relating to victims, suspects, or witnesses, nor does it seek to interfere with any criminal investigation. The public interest lies in understanding the existence and nature of institutional discussions, assessments, and decision-making concerning allegations that could affect public confidence in the administration of justice.

If you consider that you are entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to neither confirm nor deny whether the information is held, I would ask you to consider the strong public interest in transparency in this area. Where allegations concern the handling of serious sexual violence and possible institutional cover-ups, a refusal even to confirm or deny the existence of relevant information may itself damage public confidence in the justice system and in the accountability of public authorities. I therefore ask you to consider whether any confirmation can be given, consistent with the Act, without prejudicing the interests the exemption is intended to protect.

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 the information requested is not held by GMP.