

Date: 02/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016252/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016252/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***I would like information for the past five years (1 January 2021 to the present), as well as any planned or proposed deployments for the upcoming year 2026.
I mean deployment of live facial recognition software, and similar technologies such as facial recognition vans, phones or systems etc.***

1. Deployments

Dates and duration of each deployment

Locations (street, venue, or area)

Purpose of deployment

Planned deployments for 2026, including dates and locations

2. Technology

Name and version of each system used

Vendor or provider for each system

Type of system (live recognition, retrospective identification, or other)

3. Datasets and Data Sources

Names and sources of all datasets used (e.g., custody images, watchlists, third-party databases — please name third-party sources where possible) Retention periods for all facial images or biometric data Any demographic information attached (ethnicity, sex, age — please list all) If no demographic data is recorded, please confirm

4. Outcomes and Accuracy

Number of people scanned for each deployment or location Number of matches made Number of correct matches (true positives) Number of incorrect matches (false positives) Any internal audits or accuracy reports

5. Bias and Demographics

Where available, please provide anonymised and aggregated demographic data for each deployment:

People on watchlists, how these lists are chosen, and which lists are used People matched by the system, with anonymised demographic data False positive matches, with any available demographic data

If demographic data is not recorded, please confirm and explain how bias is assessed.

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, I am not obliged to supply all of the information you have requested as an exemptions apply.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 exemption applies.

Questions 1, 3 and 4 are exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The response to some or all of these questions are available online. Please follow the link below.

[Live Facial Recognition | Greater Manchester Police](#)

Question 5's demographic data for watchlists is exempt under **Section 22(1)(a) –Information intended for future publication**. The intended publication for this part of the request is October 2026 This will be on the following link [Live Facial Recognition | Greater Manchester Police](#)

As the exemption used is a qualified exemption a public interest test (PIT) needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds.

Therefore, the stance at this time is that question 5 is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.

In accordance with the S17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

The remaining data is provided below.

1. See exemption above and - The purpose of deployments are ***“Proactive deployment” & “Event deployment.”***
2. The LFR software is provided by NEC. The system is NEC NEO face and is a live facial recognition system.
3. See exemption above and - The LFR software does not record demographic data.
4. See exemption above.
5. The LFR software does not record demographic data. See exemption for the remaining data.