

Date: 06/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015959/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015959/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Do you have a formal, written policy for the disposal of ammunition (including seized, surrendered, obsolete, and expired stock)? If yes, please provide a copy or summary.**
- 2. Does this policy vary if the ammunition is from force use or if it is surrendered by the public? If yes, please provide a copy or summary.**
- 3. How many officers are involved in the handling and disposal of ammunition?**
- 4. What types of ammunition does your force typically handle for disposal (select all that apply)**
 - * **Small arms**
 - * **Shotgun cartridges**
 - * **Large calibre**
 - * **Pyrotechnics**
 - * **Taser cartridges**
 - * **Other (please specify)**
- 5. Do you keep detailed records of the type, nature, amount, and technical characteristics of all ammunition received for disposal?**
- 6. Please provide figures for the amount and type of ammunition that has been disposed of in the last 3 years, broken down by year.**
- 7. What are the authorized methods of ammunition disposal used by your department (select all that apply)**
 - * **Incineration**

- * **Controlled detonation**
- * **Demilitarisation**
- * **Recycling**
- * **Open burning**
- * **Burial**
- * **Other (please specify)**

8. Are these disposal methods carried out internally or by a contracted, registered third party? If contracted please provide details of contractor

9. If using a third party, how do you verify their compliance with safety and environmental regulations?

10. Is recycling of components (e.g., brass casings) part of your disposal process or the responsibility of the person who disposes of the ammunition for you?

11. What specific procedures are in place for the safe disposal of damaged, worn, or potentially unstable ammunition?

12. How does your police force ensure that disposal methods comply with environmental regulations and minimize contamination risks?

13. Who is responsible for overseeing the entire ammunition disposal process, from seizure/surrender to final destruction/disposal and what records are kept for this process?

14. How many registered firearms dealers are registered with your police force?

15. How many dealer registers of firearms or ammunition transactions have you inspected over the last 3 years?

16. How many registered firearms dealers stocks from transactions have you inspected over the last 3 years?

17. Are you aware of how ammunition can be disposed of by registered firearms dealers? (Select all that apply)

- * **Burial**
- * **Burning in the open air**
- * **Recycling**
- * **Incineration**
- * **Other (please specify)**

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 held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information held in regards to question 1 as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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 exemption applies.

Where redactions in the attached documents for **question 1** have been made, that information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 40(2)(a) – Personal Information

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Where Section 40 has been used, this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test

Harm

To provide the redacted information within the attached policy would reveal policing tactics used by Greater Manchester Police. This would give an advantage to that are intent on committing offences and avoid detection. It would also increase the risk of danger towards the public GMP who sworn to protect.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the redacted information would provide the public with a slightly more in-depth knowledge into how Greater Manchester Police operates. This would enable the populous to take steps to protect themselves against criminal activity and may lead to further information being provided to the force.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to release the redacted information into the public domain would reveal some policing tactics of Greater Manchester Police. This would impact on the force's ability to detect and prevent crime and apprehend and prosecute offenders.

The risk of danger to the public would be increased by revealing such policing tactics into the public domain. The safety of the public we protect is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and we would not wish to jeopardise that safety by releasing exempt information into the public domain.

Balance Test

The arguments for and against disclosure of information need to weighed against each other. In this case the greatest argument for disclosure is the fact that the populous would be provided with information regarding how the force police operate.

However, given that the disclosure would increase the risk of increased crime to and assist those intent on committing crime to avoid detection the balance of disclosure, at this time, weighs on non-disclosure for those particular redacted parts of the policy requested.

This letter acts as a refusal notice for the redacted parts of the attached document.

1. See above.
2. No
3. There are multiple areas that assist with this, and so no official number is recorded on our systems.
4. All listed.
5. N/A

6. GMP are unable to answer this question accurately, as the data imputed is reliant on the OIC booking in and commenting on the system what has been logged. For example, one log located is recorded as "*Gold Bullet Casings, Gold Bullet Casings of various sizes*", however it does not imply how many. This would only be known when the items are to be made ready for disposal. I can advise 920 submissions of items recorded in the evidential property management system and have been closed out for Destruction in the last 3 years.
7. Shredded and residual metals recycled via a third party contractor.
8. This is Contracted to an appropriately licenced and accredited third party.
9. This is the responsibility of the contractor.
10. This is the responsibility of the contractor.
11. This is the responsibility of the contractor. – All ammunition is taken regardless of condition.
12. This is the responsibility of the contractor.
13. GMP's involvement is detailed in the attached process in line with Q1, once handed over to the 3rd party It is then the responsibility of the contractor to provide evidence of tracking and disposal from the point of handover to completion including cert of destruction and RFD log entries where appropriate
14. 29.
15. No information held.
16. No information held.
17. N/A