



Date: 13/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017429/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017429/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request recorded information concerning an incident reported to police in Bolton on 23 January 1976.

A Bolton Evening News report published 24 January 1976 states that a Bolton resident observed an unusual aerial object near Rumworth Lodge Reservoir in the Bolton/Ladybridge area the evening of 23 January 1976 and reported the incident to Middle Hulton police.

Please provide any information held by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) concerning this incident, including information created or received between 23 January and 29 February 1976 relating to the initial report or its subsequent handling. The reference to Middle Hulton is provided as a search aid and is not intended to limit the request if the matter was recorded or handled elsewhere within GMP.

Responsive information would include, where held:

- any incident report, incident log, station record, occurrence book or occurrence record documenting the report;*
- any officer's report, statement, memorandum, message or other recorded follow-up;*
- and*
- any internal or external correspondence, notification or referral concerning the incident, including communications with another police force or police unit, government department or military authority.*

These categories are illustrative and are not intended to limit the request to information held under those particular titles or classifications.

If no incident-specific information is held, please advise whether GMP holds recorded information concerning the retention, destruction, or transfer to another repository of records of the relevant type and period.

I would request any information disclosed to be provided electronically.

*If the request would exceed the applicable cost limit or requires clarification, I would appreciate advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act as to how it might be refined while preserving the best prospect of identifying responsive information.
Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is not held by GMP.

[The Management of Police Information protocol](#) states that non-essential information should not be retained for longer than six years. As such, information relating to this incident from 1976 is not held.