

Wednesday, 22 July 2026  
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016133/D

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016133/D**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. How Many employees work on Counter Terrorism Police North West split by numbers employed by each of the regional forces (GMP, Merseyside, Cheshire etc...)  
Can this be split by staff and officers for each force*
- 2. How many members of staff have been dismissed from GMP over the last 5 calendar years due to voluntary redundancy, compulsory redundancy, voluntary redundancy with pension enhancement and compulsory redundancy with pension enhancement.*
- 3. How many members of police staff over the last 5 years have been dismissed from CTPNW due to voluntary redundancy, compulsory redundancy, voluntary redundancy with pension enhancement and compulsory redundancy with pension enhancement.. Can this be broken down for each year and who was the employing force (GMP, Merseyside, Cheshire etc....) if the data from other forces is not available just GMP will suffice*

**Result of Searches**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all of the information requested as an exemption applies.

**Part 1** is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

**Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement**

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

## **Public Interest Test**

### **Harm**

Disclosure of information relating to the number of CTPNW employees would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, in particular terrorism.

The employees of CTPNW are a specialist counter-terrorism resource. Revealing how many are operating within a defined geographic area would provide insight into the force's counter-terrorism capability and capacity. This would allow comparisons to be drawn between regional areas and over time, enabling hostile actors to identify perceived strengths, weaknesses, or gaps in protective security arrangements.

Once disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act, the information would be considered available to the public at large, including individuals or groups seeking to cause harm. The loss of such information could not be mitigated or controlled, and the ability of the police to prevent and detect terrorism would be prejudiced.

For these reasons, disclosure would be likely to cause real and significant harm to law enforcement functions, and the exemption under section 31(1)(a) is engaged.

### **Factors Favouring Disclosure**

There is a public interest in openness and transparency around policing activity, particularly in relation to counter-terrorism. Disclosure of information can help promote public confidence that appropriate resources and expertise are in place to protect communities and respond to terrorist threats. Providing insight into how policing addresses terrorism can also support informed public debate and accountability for the use of public resources.

Additionally, transparency can reassure businesses, organisations, and members of the public that counter-terrorism measures exist to support protective security within force areas.

### **Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure**

There is a strong and pressing public interest in ensuring that the police are able to prevent and detect terrorism effectively. Releasing information about the number of CTPNW employees would risk revealing sensitive information about counter-terrorism capability and capacity.

Disclosure would allow comparisons to be drawn between regional areas and over time, enabling hostile actors to make informed judgements about where protective security and CT

engagement may be more limited. This could assist those with malicious intent in planning or adapting their activities to reduce the likelihood of detection or intervention, directly undermining counter-terrorism efforts.

Releasing this information under FOIA is effectively a release to the world at large. The police would have no way to monitor or limit its use, which elevates the risk of public harm. In this case, ensuring public safety and preventing harm holds much greater weight than the limited transparency disclosure would offer.

### **Balance Test**

While transparency in policing is important, in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Protecting the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures, and safeguarding the public from the risk of terrorism, is a higher public interest than releasing information that could undermine those objectives.

Accordingly, the exemption under section 31(1)(a) is justified.

### **Part 2**

There are no employees with a leaving reason of Redundancy with pension enhancement. Only these redundancy reasons are returned.

| <b>Leaver Year</b> | <b>'Redundancy'<br/>(Compulsory)</b> | <b>'Voluntary<br/>Redundancy'</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2021               | 4                                    | 5                                 |
| 2022               | 2                                    | 1                                 |
| 2023               | 4                                    | 0                                 |
| 2024               | 5                                    | 0                                 |
| 2025               | 10                                   | 55                                |

### **Part 3**

There has been a total of 1 redundancy.

Any further breakdown has been exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.