



**GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE**

Date: 29/06/2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016845/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016845/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/05/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

GMP Policy on Cross-Force Crime Reports and Investigation Transfer

Dear FOI Team, __ I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the following:

- 1. GMP policies, procedures, guidance and process maps in force between 2017 and 2026 governing reports of serious crime made to GMP where the alleged offence occurred in another police force area.***
- 2. Guidance on when GMP should record, investigate, refer, transfer, share or retain ownership of such a report - and what the reporting person should be told about what action GMP will take.***
- 3. Guidance on what GMP should do where the reporting person expresses concern that the originating police force has mishandled, suppressed, misrecorded or failed to investigate the matter reported.***
- 4. Guidance on vulnerable victim interviews, Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) or other video-recorded interviews taken by GMP in relation to an offence in another force area - including retention, transcription, disclosure and transfer of recordings to the originating force, courts or tribunals.***
- 5. Guidance on whether and how GMP should safeguard the victim, make welfare referrals or consider independent investigation where the substantive investigation is transferred or referred to another force that is itself subject to complaint or allegation.***

6. Any policy or memorandum of understanding governing case handover between GMP and West Midlands Police in serious sexual offence matters or comparable cross-force serious crime matters.

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 as an exemption applies to **question 1 of this request**.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the populace better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A Public Authority can refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services. This is particularly relevant at this time due to the ongoing demand on GMP's FOI unit which is currently experiencing high workloads and reduced levels of staffing.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies specifically to:-

Burden on the Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information.

The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such, question 1 of your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

To provide the data requested for this question, would involve manual redactions to each piece of **GMP policies** as they do contain sensitive and personal information which could identify directly/indirectly a living human therefore Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as 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.

It would require going through every document reading every word to remove personal data and assessing if any elements of these documents warranted any further exemptions or consultations with the corresponding policy owners to ensure nothing causes harm to GMP's future law enforcement duties being carried out.

The number of policy pages located that relate to this question is over 700, therefore at a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to review and redact each piece of policy would take in the region of 60 hours at a minimum to ascertain the data required.

In addition, the following exemption applies to parts of this request.

Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means

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 2, 3, 4 and 5 are exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The response to these questions followed by GMP is available online. Please follow the links below.

Question 2.

[Latest changes – investigation | College of Policing](#)
[Latest changes – investigation | College of Policing](#)

Question 3.

[foi-25.016011.z-reporting-policy-for-conduct-issues.pdf](#)

Question 4.

[Retention and Disposal of Records Policy and Procedure | Greater Manchester Police](#)
[Information Sharing Policy and Procedure | Greater Manchester Police](#)
[Management of police information | College of Policing](#)

Question 5.

[incident-response-policy-v1.3-july-2017-redacted.pdf](#)

Please see below for the results for all the remaining questions.

Question 1. See exemption
Question 2. See exemption
Question 3. See exemption
Question 4. See exemption
Question 5. See exemption
Question 6. **No information held.**