

Date: 9th January 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016090/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016090/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Q1 How many cells are there in Pendleton Police Station.

Q2 What is the number of detainees that can be held.

Q3 What are the ratios of staff to detainees that Greater Manchester Police are required to maintain. Please include ranks or details of supervisory roles required.

Q4 If a detainee requests water, what is the policy on providing this and when is it acceptable to ignore a detainee's request for water.

Q5 If a detainee requests darkness to sleep, what are the policy requirements for refusing this.

Q6 If a detainee requests a blanket because they are cold, what is the policy for refusing this.

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.

Question 1 – 26

Question 2 – 26

Question 3

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not operate with a prescribed staff-to-detainee ratio. Neither the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) nor the College of Policing's Approved Professional Practice (APP) sets out any mandated ratio for custody staffing.

Question 4

GMP offer food and drink at recognised mealtimes and outside of these times upon reasonable request. In line with Approved Professional Practice.

Question 5

To carry out cell visits as per Approved Professional Practice cells need to be sufficiently lit to observe a person inside. GMP cells have a night light, and this cannot be turned off for that reason.

Question 6

All GMP cells have a welcome pack which contains a blanket for each detainee on arrival. It is at the Custody Officer's discretion what items a detainee is allowed to keep and based on a thorough risk assessment. GMP do not have a specific policy and follow the national Approved Professional Practice guidance.