

Date: 06/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016468/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016468/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I respectfully request access to records related to the following law enforcement incident.

Records Requested:

- *Police or incident reports, including narrative and investigative documentation*
- *Body-worn camera footage from all officers involved in the pursuit and arrest*
- *Any dash-camera or vehicle camera footage from officers attending the scene*
- *CCTV or surveillance footage capturing the incident and arrest*
- *Officer statements, supplemental reports, custody and arrest documentation, and evidence logs*

Incident Details:

- *Suspect Name: Unknown*
- *Date of Incident: 7 November 2025*
- *Location: Bury New Road and Sedgley Park area, Bury, Greater Manchester, England*
- *Police Agency: Greater Manchester Police (GMP)*
- *Alleged Charges: Shoplifting theft from a store on Bury New Road, reported assault of a security guard, and associated offences.*

Summary:

According to published reports, officers were pursuing a suspected shoplifter after a theft and alleged security guard assault at a store on Bury New Road. In the course of the foot pursuit toward Sedgley Park training centre, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Sir Stephen Watson, who was present nearby for a passing-out parade, joined the chase and helped detain the fleeing suspect. Body-worn camera footage released by the force reportedly shows the chief holding the suspect as he was placed under arrest. Two other individuals were also arrested in connection with the incident and remain in custody on suspicion of theft.

I am requesting all official documentation and recorded media—especially body-worn and any CCTV footage—created in connection with this encounter.

Referenced Article:

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/manchesters-police-chief-chases-down-suspected-shoplifter-hg5lqt09j>

Format of Delivery:

Please provide all records digitally via email or a secure download link. If any items cannot be delivered electronically, kindly inform me of alternative delivery methods.

Fees:

I am willing to pay reasonable fees associated with fulfilling this request. Please notify me beforehand if anticipated costs will exceed expectations.

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 the information held as an exemption applies.

Section 30(1)(a)(b)(c) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details of the ongoing case into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release the data that is related to cases that remain open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete those investigations to a full and correct conclusion. Any release of information relating to ongoing cases could prejudice and undermine those investigations.

The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency.

This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.