

Date: 09/03/2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016506/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016506/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*Incident on Friday 21st February 2025 at [REDACTED]
Has [REDACTED] been charged?
What has he been charged with?
Is he due to appear in court?
Is he on bail?*

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police neither confirms nor denies that it holds information relevant to this request by virtue of the following exemptions:

**Section 30(3) Investigations
Section 40(5) Personal Data.**

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and consideration of the public interest must be given as to whether neither confirming nor denying information exists is the appropriate response.

Section 40 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to evidence the harm or consider the public interest.

Section 40(5B)(a)(i) - Personal Information – giving information to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

To confirm that any information is held or not, could confirm personal data. In some circumstances confirming or denying whether information is held could itself identify a living individual and would therefore 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.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S30

Confirming or denying whether information exists relevant to this request would lead to a better-informed general public. This fact alone may encourage individuals to provide intelligence in order to assist with investigations and would also promote public trust in providing transparency and demonstrating openness and accountability into where the police are currently focusing their investigations.

The public are also entitled to know how public funds are spent.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S30

To confirm or deny the information does or does not exist, would prejudice investigations that may or may not be ongoing and would likely undermine Greater Manchester Police's ability to prevent and detect future crimes. Greater Manchester Police need to be allowed to carry out investigations effectively away from public scrutiny until such times as the details need to be made public, otherwise it will be difficult for accurate, thorough and objective investigations to be carried out.

Balance Test

To neither confirm or deny any further information is held would suggest that Greater Manchester Police take their responsibility to protect confidential information provided to them seriously and appropriately to ensure the smooth delivery of operational law enforcement. The Police Service would never confirm or deny whether information was held if to do so could undermine the prevention or detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Greater Manchester Police has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. The Police Service relies heavily on the public providing information to assist in criminal investigations and has a duty to protect and defend vulnerable individuals. The public has an expectation that any information they provide will be treated with confidence. Anything that places that confidence at risk, no matter how generic, would undermine any trust or confidence individuals have in the Police Service.

Moreover, there is a public interest in transparency of the day to day policing and providing assurances that forces are appropriately and effectively dealing with crime, if disclosing information (including via a confirmation or denial that certain information was held) would identify sensitive investigative activity and risk prejudice to investigations.

Therefore, it is our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for confirming or denying whether any information is held regarding this matter is not made out.

None of the above can be viewed as an inference that the information you seek does or does not exist.