

Date: 6th February 2026
Our ref: FOI/25/015376/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015376/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like information about the governance of the Oldham Independent Advisory Group, specifically:

- 1. who are the current members*
- 2. what is the recruitment policy*
- 3. how GMP ensures the membership is representative of the Oldham Community*
- 4. how often the IAG meets*
- 5. what it discusses*
- 6. where I can find minutes of meetings*
- 7. where I can find an annual report*
- 8. how performance of members is appraised*
- 9. what are the terms of office*
- 10. how Oldham residents can contact IAG members*

The only information on the GMP website is a general page containing some standard information (the same as for other police forces) and a link to a 2024 Facebook page recruiting new members. Other forces have information about the Chair and links to Annual Reports. Why is the GMP information so minimal?

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 the information requested as exemption applies.

Question 1

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) 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.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

The current IAG members names 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.

Question 2

Recruitment is handled centrally by the GMP recruitment team

- If anyone wishes to apply for an IAG or ICSP role, there is a specific link on the website that will take them to an expression of interest form. [All Current Vacancies: Volunteers for Independent Advisory Groups \(IAGs\) and Independent Community Scrutiny Panels \(ICSP\) 1893120 , - Ref:1893120](#)
- Once the applicant completes and returns the form the Recruitment Team will forward all applications received to - Force Prevention Hub
- Force Prevention Hub will email District Leads and Chairs / Vice-Chairs with the completed applications to be considered and progressed.
- If the applicant is not suitable, they will be contacted in writing to explain why they have not been successful and forward email to the Portfolio Coordinator.
- If the applicant appeals the decision, they we will advise of the appeals process.

Question 3

GMP have a rolling recruitment, so we regularly receive and process applications. A refresh of the IAG was conducted in 2024, to ensure we utilise a range of methods to recruit a cross section of community members to achieve panels that are representative of the District of Oldham.

Question 4

Oldham IAG meets on a quarterly basis.

Question 5

Oldham IAG's discuss National and Local Police Policy issues and ongoing topics of interest within the local community and the policing of it.

Question 6

Meeting minutes are currently not published however, GMP will be publishing the minutes of IAG meetings on the GMP website in the near future.

Question 7

No information held. We currently do not have an IAG annual report.

Question 8

We do not appraise members, but support is offered when/if required.

Question 9

The Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the roles and responsibilities of IAG members. All members get a copy of the handbook that contain the ToR, which they must sign. This document is currently under review and in process of being finalised.

Question 10

The IAG has no requirement to be contactable, the members are individual members of the community who attend representing their views. Residents are best placed contacting their local neighbourhood policing teams with concerns.