

Date: 11th March 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016407/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016407/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q1 - Could you please supply me with the following information concerning the proscription of Palestine Action as a Terrorist group under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Please provide the total number of individuals arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 in connection with protest activity linked to Palestine Action from January 2024 up to January 2026 Of these arrests, how many resulted in:

Release without charge

Charges dropped

Convictions

Q2 - What was the estimated policing cost associated with investigating protestors under terrorism legislation between January 2024 and January 2026, including officer hours, specialist counter-terror units, Surveillance or detention costs (where recorded)

Q3 - Please confirm whether any special counter-terrorism funding was used in relation to protest activity linked to Palestine Action.

Q4 - Any guidance, training, advice or information issued to Police officers which includes examples of the types of speech, words, or language, symbols, or flags, that could be associated with s.12 and s.13 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

If possible, please provide the data electronically and break it down by month.

If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

CLARIFICATION

Please cover arrests from the date Palestine Action became a proscribed organisation onwards (from 05/07/25)

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information.

Question 1 & 3

Greater Manchester Police can confirm it holds **26** arrests under Sections 12 and/or 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which relate to inviting or expressing support for a proscribed organisation; however, in respect of *any other* Terrorism Act arrests falling within your request, the force can neither confirm nor deny whether such information is held, in accordance with Sections 24(2), Section 31(3) and Section 40(5) of the FOIA.

The information requested is exempt by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) National Security

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Section 40(5) – Personal Information

Sections 24 and 31 are qualified exemptions and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest in confirmation or denial.

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

Harm

Confirming or denying whether GMP holds any other Terrorism Act arrests linked to protest activity associated with Palestine Action, or whether any special counter-terrorism funding was used in relation to such activity, would risk providing an advantage to individuals seeking to undermine policing strategies, particularly those designed to safeguard national security.

FOIA is a disclosure to the world; therefore, any acknowledgement of information held could be misused, potentially compromising sensitive counter-terrorism operations.

Confirmation or denial would also enable individuals to infer whether GMP has deployed counter-terrorism resources or investigative tactics in relation to specific protest activity. This could assist those intent on disrupting police activity by adapting behaviour to evade detection, identifying perceived gaps in capability, or assessing the likelihood of being the subject of CT interest.

Any information indicating the focus of policing or counter-terrorism activity—whether arrests or funding—could be exploited by terrorists, extremists, or organised criminals. Whether information is or is not held, disclosure would adversely affect public safety, compromise operational tactics, and undermine the ability of policing to protect national security. Additionally, confirmation or denial could facilitate “mosaic requests,” enabling malicious actors to combine multiple disclosures to build a picture of counter-terrorism posture, resourcing, or thresholds. This would significantly undermine operational effectiveness and the prevention and detection of crime.

The threat from terrorism in the UK remains significant, and policing relies on the covert and flexible deployment of counter-terrorism assets. Confirming or denying whether GMP holds relevant information would therefore be counterproductive to safeguarding national security, frustrate law enforcement functions, and weaken long-established policing methods. For these reasons, confirming or denying whether this information is held may compromise the efficiency of policing services, prejudice ongoing or future investigations, and increase the risk to the public.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for Section 24 - Confirming or denying whether the requested information is held could promote transparency regarding national security arrangements and enable the public to understand how resources are allocated to protect the country. This openness could strengthen public confidence in the effectiveness of security strategies.

Factors against confirmation or denial for Section 24 - Disclosure of any policing or counter-terrorism arrangements of this nature would render security measures less effective. Confirming or denying the existence of information relating to CT arrests or CT funding would compromise operations designed to protect the UK’s infrastructure and public safety. This would increase the risk of harm to the public and necessitate a review of CT security arrangements, incurring additional costs and operational risk.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for Section 31 - Confirming or denying whether GMP holds the requested information could demonstrate accountability and openness in policing operations. It would reinforce public confidence in the police service and its commitment to transparency about how it engages with its responsibilities and utilises public funds.

Factors against confirmation or denial for Section 31 - Confirming or denying whether GMP holds records relating to additional TACT arrests or the use of CT funding could compromise policing tactics, hinder the prevention and detection of crime, and reveal operational focus. This could enable criminal groups or extremists to exploit policing methods, directly affecting GMP resources and public safety. Disclosure also risks undermining collaborative CT law-enforcement efforts essential for managing complex and sensitive investigations.

Balance Test

The security of the country is paramount. GMP will not confirm or deny whether information is held if doing so would undermine national security, law-enforcement functions, or investigative processes. While transparency is important, the public interest in safeguarding the integrity of counter-terrorism operations and maintaining effective policing capability is significantly stronger.

Confirming or denying whether information is held could enable individuals to gain insight into CT investigative strategies, funding deployment, operational thresholds, or arrest activity, jeopardising operations and increasing the risk of harm. Any disclosure that risks prejudicing national security or law enforcement is therefore not in the public interest.

Accordingly, after weighing the competing interests, confirmation or denial of whether GMP holds information relating to this request would not be in the public interest. This should not be taken as indicating whether such information exists.

Response to remaining questions

Question 2

No information held.

Question 4

Question 4 is exempt under **section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The information referred to is already available in the Public Domain. Please follow the link below.

[foi-25.015154.j-palestine-acrion.pdf](https://www.gmp.police.uk/foi-25.015154.j-palestine-acrion.pdf)