

Date: 11/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016418/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016418/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please confirm whether Greater Manchester Police has operated any police operations named:

- 1) Operation Daryon; or***
- 2) Operation Wood.***

If so, for each operation, please provide:

- a) The date range during which the operation was/is active.***
- b) The stated purpose or mission statement.***
- c) The general policing category under which the operation was/is classified (e.g., public order, neighbourhood policing etc.).***
- d) Whether a formal strategic document exists.***

I am not requesting personal data or tactical detail. Please provide redacted information where possible if exemptions are to apply.

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 31(3) Law Enforcement

Section 31 is prejudice based and qualified which means that there is a requirement to articulate the harm in confirming or not whether information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Harm for Sections 31

Any release under FOIA is a disclosure to the world, not just to the individual making the request. To confirm or not that information is held would suggest to members of the public that if reporting a crime to police, information about their report could be released to the public at large under FOI at any given time. Confirming or denying that information is held would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of Greater Manchester Police in the prevention and detection of crime. Policing is always around ensuring the public's safety, but more importantly that any potential criminal could be made aware that a particular operation or investigation is taking place or not.

This fear that information could be made publicly known at any time could result in people not engaging with the police and failing to report crime to the police which ultimately undermines law enforcement. Modern-day policing is intelligence led and this is particularly pertinent with regard to law enforcement.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S31

There is public interest in transparency and accountability where the police service is concerned as public taxes fund the Police and this obviously favours confirmation or denial.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S31

Confirming or denying that any information is held regarding operations that may or may not be/have taken place would have the effect of compromising law enforcement tactics. Further police resources would be required to apprehend criminals who are actively evading arrest, or to investigate crimes that are committed because of criminals being emboldened to commit more crimes. It has been recorded that FOIA releases are monitored by criminals and terrorists and so to confirm or deny information is held would lead to law enforcement efforts being undermined.

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 policing operations 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.