



Date: 01/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015342/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015342/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Around 2013 / 2014, a guidance document was published, written jointly by the Department for Education, the Department for Transport and Association of Chief Police Officers. The guidance document stated that where a teacher is not obligated to drive a school minibus by their contract of employment, they may be classed as "volunteer" minibus drivers and therefore drive a 17 seat minibus on a Cat B licence, not requiring a Cat D1 licence

[Driving school minibuses: advice for schools and local authorities - GOV.UK](#)

"This guidance has been cleared by the Association of Chief Police Officers, who will promote awareness of this legislation amongst local traffic police officers."

1. *Can you please confirm that this information was indeed passed to your force?*
2. *How would your Traffic Officers view anyone driving a 17 seat minibus on a Cat B licence as per the published guidance. Would your force prosecute the driver for not holding a Cat D1 licence?*

Result of Searches

Information relating to part one of your request is not held in an easily retrievable format, if it is indeed held at all. There is no centrally held record of information being passed to us from the government. To provide such information would require each division, sub-division and possibly each individual officer to undertake necessary searches to establish if this information was received.

To comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work and therefore exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. The only advice that GMP can give is that you specify a particular divisional area within GMP to make your request more manageable within the fees limit of the act, although this still may not be possible for even one divisional area.

Regarding part 2 of your request, information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action. As this part of your request is asking for how GMP officers would respond in a hypothetical situation, it is not a valid Freedom of Information request.