



Date: 17/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/016013/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/016013/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am seeking information on what is captured and logged in chain of custody (CoC) and audit trails (AT) during the analysis of audio and textual evidence.

The scope of interest is for analysis done with or without the use of AI tools like automatic speech recognition (ASR) and natural language processing (NLP), like large language models (LLMs).

Department: Digital forensics department and investigation unit, or the equivalent within your force.

Stage of evidence lifecycle: Analysis

Timeframe: I am only interested in the current practice. In terms of a definitive timeframe, 1st January 2025 till the date of the request.

Request:

If CoC and AT are recorded, please provide the following information (for CoC and AT separately where applicable):

1. Information recorded

Please describe the types of information that are routinely captured in CoC and AT documentation for audio and textual evidence.

Please indicate if paradata is recorded.

2. Methods of recording/tracking

Please describe the systems or processes used to record or track CoC and AT, and indicate whether these are manual, automated, or hybrid.

3. Verification and validation

Please indicate whether the force has procedures to confirm that digital evidence is genuine and unmodified at the point of acquisition or during analysis.

4. Policies and guidance

Please provide copies or references to any current policies, or guidance documents governing CoC and AT for audio and textual evidence.

5. Management and responsibility

Please indicate whether CoC and AT documentation is managed in house or outsourced, and identify the responsible role(s) or department(s).

6. Use of AI tools

Does the force use AI tools such as automatic speech recognition (ASR), natural language processing (NLP), or large language models (LLMs) in the analysis of audio or textual evidence? If yes, please provide:

- * the types of tools used*
- * the names of the tools*
- * the providers/suppliers*
- * the tasks in which they are applied (e.g., transcription, translation, redaction, summarisation).*

Glossary

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Computer systems that perform tasks such as recognising speech, analysing text, or making inferences from data. The term is also used more broadly to describe automated or semi automated tools used in evidence processing.

Audit Trail (AT): Documentation that records the sequence of actions applied to digital evidence. This may include system logs, processing steps, parameters used, and human interventions, enabling reconstruction and review of how evidence was handled.

Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR): Technology that converts spoken audio into written text, commonly used for tasks such as transcription and, where applicable, speaker identification or diarisation.

Chain of Custody (CoC): A record of how evidence is handled from collection through processing to presentation in court. It may include who handled the evidence, when transfers occurred, storage details, and digital identifiers. Also known as "continuity" or "provenance."

Forensic audio evidence: Recorded sound collected, preserved, and analysed for investigative or legal purposes, including material from body worn video, dashcams, radio communications, and interview recordings.

Forensic textual evidence: Written or digital text collected, preserved, and analysed for investigative or legal purposes, including transcripts, emails, chat logs, and social media posts.

Paradata: Information generated as a by product of human interaction with digital or AI assisted tools during evidence processing (e.g., prompts, edits, interaction logs). Paradata helps document how outputs were produced.

Large Language Models (LLMs): AI systems trained on large text datasets to perform tasks such as summarisation, translation, or text generation.

Natural Language Processing (NLP): AI methods used to process, analyse, or generate human language, supporting tasks such as translation, summarisation, redaction, and document analysis.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is not held by GMP. GMP's Forensic Services Branch do not conduct audio analysis and do not use artificial intelligence in any forensic processes.