



Date: 07/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016539/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016539/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

How many foreign police officers (and other foreign law enforcement agents) did your police force provide training for in: (a) 2023; (b) 2024; (c) 2025?

Please provide a breakdown of these figures, showing the countries that these foreign police officers were from, and how many were from each country.

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny, that it holds the information you have requested by virtue of the following exemptions:

S23(5) - Information supplied by or concerning certain Security Bodies

S24(2) - National Security

S27(4) - International Relations

S31(3) - Law Enforcement

Sections 24, 27 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.

Evidence of Harm:

Disclosure of the information, if held, runs the risk of undermining international relationships, that when used on its own or with other information is likely to have an undesirable effect on the national security of the states concerned and the UK.

The effective conduct of international relations depends upon the maintenance of trust and confidence between states and international organisations. If the UK does not maintain this trust and confidence, its ability to protect and promote UK interests through international relations will be severely diminished. In this case, confirming or denying whether any information is held regarding countries who have received training or have requested training would very likely be seen as a breach of trust, which is fundamental to international relations in general. In this particular instance, is vital to the UK's ability to continue to conduct effective relations with foreign states.

Modern day policing is intelligence led and law enforcement depends upon the development of intelligence and the gathering and security of evidence in order to disrupt criminal behaviour and bring offenders to justice. The Police Service provides training to police officers and police staff to provide them with the knowledge and understanding required for them to deliver effective operational law enforcement. Occasionally training is provided to overseas police forces and law enforcement agencies. However to confirm or deny whether any information is held regarding training that has been provided to overseas countries or about those who may have requested training would, in this case, undermine the process of preventing or detecting crime and the apprehension of prosecution of offenders.

Public Interest Considerations

Factors favouring confirmation or denial information is held - s24 National Security:

We appreciate the importance of the public being informed on how public money is being spent and how public authorities conduct their activities and generate their income. Confirming whether any other information regarding policing assistance to international states is held would increase public confidence and allow for better informed public debate.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held - s24 National Security:

To confirm or deny whether any other information is held risks prejudicing national security. It is not in the public interest to compromise ongoing or future operations which protect the security or infrastructure of the UK by undermining the need to use the NCND approach to such requests consistently.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial information is held - s27 International Relations:

There is a clear public interest in making appropriate information available to the public. Confirmation or denial information is held would act to reinforce the commitment of (force name) as an open and transparent organisation, serving to maintain public confidence in the force and the wider policing service as a whole. Moreover, use of public money, as well as the income generated by public bodies is also a matter of strong public interest.

Greater public awareness of whether any countries have benefited from delivery of training and expertise, would provide reassurance to the public at large and help to promote a feeling of increased safety amongst the public in both the UK and the world at large.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held - s27 International Relations:

Confirming or denying information is held in this case is very likely to compromise the ability of the UK to promote and protect its interests abroad whilst also undermining the UK's ability to form new and mutually beneficial relationships with other states. The reduction in revenue is likely to result from states choosing not to approach the UK for further services in the future. The damage that confirmation or denial is likely to cause to the UK's international relations in this case cannot be said to be in the public interest.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial information is held - s31 Law Enforcement:

Confirmation or denial information is held would lead to better public awareness identifying that the force undertake work with law enforcement agencies from across the world. This would allow greater insight into when and how public money is spent.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held - s31 Law Enforcement:

Confirmation or denial information is held in this case would compromise the forces' ability to engage and assist overseas police forces in tackling international threats and share best practice within policing in the future. Confirmation or denial would confirm that countries had or had not taken a direct interest in, or been provided with assistance in a given time, which could infer the level of overseas criminal threats. The safety of the public is of paramount importance, and any increase in crime both in the UK and abroad which results in harm to the wider population cannot be considered to be in the public interest.

Balance Test:

The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service will not divulge information if to do so would place the safety of the public at risk, undermine National Security or law enforcement.

Transparency in public office in respect of requests concerning police training, whether domestically and abroad, would inform public debate, provide reassurance and promote confidence in the police service as a whole.

There is however a considerable risk that confirmation or denial information is held in this case would be seen by some as a breach of vital trust and confidence which would cause severe and lasting damage to UK relations with other states.

Where confirmation or denial would risk the safety of the public, prejudice the interests of the UK abroad, and further undermine the ability of the UK to protect and promote its interests abroad, it cannot be in the public interest.

Taking the above points into account the balance favours neither confirming nor denying information is held.

No inferences should be drawn as a result of this response as to whether information is or is not held.