



Date: 13/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016565/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016565/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am a forensic engineer and have been instructed by an insurer to investigate the fire at [REDACTED] on 6 February 2026.

Case Reference:

OIC: [REDACTED]

Crime number: [REDACTED]

Enquiry:

- 1) *Is this an active case?*
- 2) *Does the police consider this incident to be the result of a malicious act such as arson?*
- 3) *Please may I have a copy of the police incident report?*

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemptions: **Section 30(3) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by the Public Authority.**

Section 30 is a qualified class-based exemption and there is a requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Factors favouring Confirming or Denying for Section 30

Confirming or denying information is held would improve the public's confidence in the work of the police to apprehend offenders and reassure them that procedures to tackle crime were robust and effective.

Factors against Confirming or Denying for Section 30

Confirming or denying whether the requested information is held could reveal whether specific investigations have taken place, which may prejudice current or future investigations. Such confirmation could provide individuals or organised groups with intelligence about enforcement priorities or investigative focus, enabling them to adapt their behaviour to avoid detection.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. The most persuasive argument in favour of confirming or denying whether any information is held would be transparency regarding the use of public funds. The most persuasive argument against is the risk of harm to operational policing. It is our view that the factors favouring confirmation or denial do not outweigh those which favour neither confirming nor denying.