



Date: 14/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016580/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016580/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/05/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting disclosure of information relating to Operation Span.

Specifically, I request:

- * Copies of correspondence between Greater Manchester Police and the Home Office, including emails, letters, briefing notes, meeting minutes, internal memos, and reports*
- * Records of meetings or telephone calls with Home Office ministers, officials, or representatives where notes, summaries, or action points were produced*
- * Internal GMP briefings, strategy documents, operational updates, or performance assessments relating to Operation Span*
- * Any documents referring to disruption tactics, safeguarding approaches, arrest or prosecution strategy, or outcomes connected to Operation Span*

This request should cover communications involving:

- * Senior GMP officers and staff, including Chief Officers and senior investigating officers*
- * Home Office ministers, special advisers, civil servants, or officials*

For the time period:

1 January 2010 to 31 December 2015

If the full request would exceed the cost limit, please provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act to help refine the request. In that case, I would be content to prioritise:

- * Communications involving senior officers*
- * Formal briefings, submissions, and meeting minutes*
- * Documents setting out operational strategy or disruption policy*

Please provide the information in electronic format.

If any material is withheld, please specify the exemption(s) relied upon and explain the public interest considerations where applicable.

Result of Searches

Information relating to your request is not held in an easily retrievable format, if it is indeed held at all. There is no centrally held record of communications or briefings and in order to provide such data would require each division, sub-division and possibly each individual officer to undertake necessary searches to establish if any such communications and briefings have occurred.

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.

Information Access Unit, Information Management and Data Directorate,
Greater Manchester Police, Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Manchester, M11 2NS