

Date: 06/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016745/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016745/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The requests relate to the resourcing and costs of the policing operation surrounding the Britain First demonstration and counter-demonstration on 18/04/26 in Manchester city centre.

- 1. The total estimated cost of the policing operation in Manchester city centre on 18 April 2026, including staff costs, equipment, and any other associated expenditure.***
- 2. The total number of officers deployed as part of the operation on 18 April 2026, broken down by GMP officers and any officers deployed from other forces.***
 - 2a. Where officers from other forces were deployed, please confirm which forces they came from and under what formal arrangement this was made.***
- 3. The total overtime costs incurred by GMP in relation to the operation on 18 April 2026.***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, the information for question 1 and 2 have been exempted from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law enforcement.

Sections 31 is a prejudice-based and qualified exemption. There is a requirement to articulate the harm in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Harm

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing any further information relating to specific staffing numbers at events within Greater Manchester Police would reveal our operational capability, which would be of intelligence value to criminals intent to cause harm in terms of anti-social behaviour, crime and terrorism.

Disclosing the cost information for the specific policing area/events would provide a person who may be intent on criminal activities with invaluable information as to the capability / tactical position and highlight that the force operates in certain locations, thus allowing them to adjust their own tactics accordingly.

The requested information could be used to calculate resources allocated to police the specific event and this could be used to compromise law enforcement capabilities by decreasing the ability of Greater Manchester Police to fight crime. This would increase the commission of crime and subsequently have a detrimental impact on public safety as well as decrease public confidence in the police force.

Disclosure of resources at the police's disposal, including resources used for individual events will mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be able to formulate ways to circumvent or overwhelm the events named above. If disclosed the tactics used by GMP will become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend, or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Police Forces need to be properly equipped in order to meet the demands placed upon them and this information could go some way towards reassuring the public that Greater Manchester Police is adequately prepared in this area.

The Force is responsible for public money and therefore there is a strong public interest in disclosing how and what the money is spent on.

Factors Favouring non-Disclosure

Disclosing the cost information for the specific policing area/events along with the number of officers attending that are not in the public domain allows for certain policing activities to be carried out with the minimal possibility of being observed or disrupted. To disclose the cost may allow criminals to determine police capacity where those activities are being carried out and observe them in order to gain intelligence. This would aid criminal activity by enabling individuals to undermine and disrupt policing activities, therefore, exempting the data is primarily to protect police services that could be targeted for the purpose of disrupting general law enforcement activities and functions.

Any disclosure of information which would compromise law enforcement tactics and thus lead to more crime being committed by reducing the opportunity for the prevention and detection of crime, would therefore increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balance Test

Whilst there is a general public interest in being open and transparent about how and where public money is spent and the services that we provide, there is a greater public interest in protecting our policing abilities. Information identifying the focus of specific policing activity, such as the cost of these type of events within this FOI request, could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Information that undermines the operational integrity of these activities will adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on law enforcement.

Therefore, it is for the reasons outlined above that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

Please see the remaining information that can be disclosed.

2a. Multiple forces provided support through Mutual aid deployments. See below.

- *Lancashire Constabulary*
- *Merseyside Police*
- *Cheshire Constabulary*
- *Cumbria Police*
- *South Yorkshire Police*
- *Cleveland police*
- *West Yorkshire Police*
- *Durham Constabulary*

3 – Overtime costs recorded are - £34,051