Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 28/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017571/Z

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017571/Z

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide copies of any briefing documents or slides for GMP officers in relation to the Manchester pride weekend 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, but I am not obliged to provide it as an exemption applies. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information requested is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a) - Law Enforcement**. Section 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.

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information on operational policing matters for large attendance events could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on attendees, an operational team or officer or avoiding that team for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not). Providing details of policing operations provides opportunities for criminality to benefit, or for risks to be extended to members of the public.

Public Interest Test Section 31 - Factors favouring disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of preparedness GMP have for such events. It will also show accountability and that public funds are being spent appropriately.

Section 31 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

The Police Service exists to protect and serve the public through the prevention and detection of crime. To provide such information for an annual event such as Manchester Pride could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder GMP's ability to successfully investigate crimes. The threat of crime at future events will increase as more crimes are committed because of criminals gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the policing operation. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify limitations of the policing operation and target and exploit this resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring. The safety of the public is of paramount importance to Greater Manchester Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Greater Manchester Police serve to protect and place individuals at risk.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. However, this needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is the fact that individuals may be placed at risk and the effect it may have on the prevention and detection of crime and protecting the people and communities we serve. Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.