Date: 22/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017745/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017745/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding officer promotions and temporary rank uplifts relative to retirement dates.

To ensure this request remains well within the statutory cost and time limits, I am requesting aggregated statistical data that can be fulfilled via an automated query of your HR/personnel database.

Please provide the following data broken down by each of the last three complete financial years (2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26):

1. The total number of police officers whose retirement date fell within that financial year, broken down by the final rank held at the date of retirement.

2. Of the retired officers counted in Question 1 for each respective financial year, the total number who, within the 14 months immediately preceding their retirement date, received any of the following:
a) A substantive promotion to a higher rank.
b) A formal temporary promotion to a higher rank.
c) A temporary salary uplift or allowance for "acting up" in a higher rank that was maintained continuously for more than 46 days.

3. For the individuals identified in Question 2, please provide a breakdown of the specific higher rank/grade they were elevated into (e.g., Sergeant, Inspector, Chief Inspector, Superintendent, etc.).

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, GMP does not hold all the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to this FOI in full without carrying out a review manually off all the officers who before their retirement date was recorded as Sergeant or above. The information on whether a promotion Beit temporarily or permanent was received would be held in the personal files and cannot be extracted without a review being completed. Of the 568 who retired during the identified 3 years, 242 were at the rank of Sgt and above. At a rate of around 15mins to review each officers record, it is expected this portion of the request would take around 60hrs to complete.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above 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. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a reduced time frame. However, from the results per year reducing this to 1 year would still not be enough to keep this under 18hrs, so a heavily reduced time frame would be advised. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1.
Data supplied is all officers who left GMP during the financial year with the reason of "retirement" recorded as their reason. This can include officers who have chosen to access their pension early. Excluding those who have retired for ill-health.

Due to some low results, some rank totals have been replaced with X as by providing all this information as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By replacing the data this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Year	Total
2023-24	175
2024-25	188
2025-26	205

Rank	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
ACC and above		X	X
Chief Supt	X	X	X
Supt	5	8	5
Chief Insp	14	11	9
Insp	20	19	22
Sergeant	35	36	46
Constable	98	108	120