Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 27/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017817/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017817/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information from January 01 2026 - October 06 2026

Volumes and timeliness

1. *How many subject access requests (SARs) did you receive.*

2. *How many overdue SARs do you currently have that have exceeded the one calendar month deadline.*

3. *If there are overdue requests, how many days overdue is the oldest SAR that is still outstanding?*

4. *Do you use external suppliers for SAR processing or redaction? If so, please give the supplier name and contract value.*

5. *What software, if any, do you use for redacting SAR disclosures. This includes document and video redaction.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested as exemptions apply.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, 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 requested information in question 1 is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means** and **Section 22(1)(a) – Information Intended for Future Publication.** GMP publish our SAR statistics on our website. The information you have requested up to June 2026 can be found here.

Information for the months after June will be published on the afore mentioned website in due course. Consequently, this information is exempt under Section 22(1)(a). As Section 22(1)(a) is a qualified exemption a public interest test needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the information for after June at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds. Therefore, the stance currently is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.

In accordance with the S17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

The remainder of your request is not exempt and is answered below, subject to the following **CAVEATS**:

Information correct as of 14/10/2026.

1. Exempt under S21 & S22, see above.
2. 219.
3. 842.
4. No.

5. GSA Cycfreedom for documents and Axon for video.