Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 05/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017420/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017420/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

REQUEST 1

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am requesting information about the incident shown in, or directly associated with, the Greater Manchester Police Facebook video available at:

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1051491637330425

If the shared URL is insufficient to identify the post, please search for GMP Facebook posts/videos concerning Taser use, Taser deployment, Taser training, or officer use of Taser published within the last 12 months, and identify the relevant post from the URL and metadata held by GMP.

Please provide the following recorded information:

1. *The date and approximate location, such as borough or district only, of the incident shown or referred to in the video.*

2. *Whether the incident involved:*
    a. *Taser drawn*
    b. *Taser aimed*
    c. *red-dotting*
    d. *arcing*
    e. *drive-stun*
    f. *discharge/firing*

g. any other recorded Taser use category

3. *Whether a use-of-force form or equivalent record was completed for the incident.*

4. *Whether the incident was reviewed by a supervisor, Taser lead, Professional Standards Department, force review panel, or any other internal review process.*

5. *Whether any complaint, conduct matter, misconduct assessment, reflective practice review process, learning review, or referral to the IOPC was created in relation to the incident.*

6. *If any such review or misconduct assessment was created, please provide:*
    1. *the type of process opened*
    2. *the date it was opened*
    3. *whether it remains ongoing or has concluded*
    4. *the broad outcome category, for example no further action, learning, reflective practice, misconduct meeting/hearing, referral, or other outcome*

7. *Whether the decision to publish the Facebook video was reviewed against College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice on Conducted Energy Devices/Taser.*

8. *Please provide any policy, guidance, checklist, approval note, or communications review record held by GMP concerning the decision to publish that video.*

I am not requesting the names, collar numbers, personal data, private addresses, or identifying details of officers, members of the public, victims, suspects, witnesses, or complainants. I am content for personal data to be redacted.

If GMP considers any part of this request exempt, please provide the non-exempt parts and explain the specific exemption relied upon for each withheld part.

If the request would exceed the cost limit, please treat each numbered paragraph as a separate request in priority order, starting at paragraph 1, and provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act so the request can be refined.

REQUEST 2
Further to my Freedom of Information request sent today concerning the GMP Facebook video involving Taser use, please treat this email as a supplement to that request.

For the avoidance of doubt, the request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing whether the authority holds the requested information and, if so, to have that information communicated to them, subject to any applicable exemptions.

Section 8 of the Act defines a valid request for information as one which is in writing, states the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence, and describes the information requested. Section

8(2) confirms that a request is to be treated as made in writing where the text is transmitted by electronic means, is received in legible form, and is capable of being used for subsequent reference.

REQUEST 3
This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the current training materials, local guidance, policy and assessment documents used by Greater Manchester Police for Conducted Energy Device (CED/Taser) training and authorisation.

Please include, where held:

1. *Current GMP initial Taser/CED officer training course materials, including lesson plans, slides, handouts, trainer notes and scenario materials.*

2. *Current GMP refresher or annual requalification materials.*

3. *GMP instructor, lead instructor or trainer guidance, including assessment criteria and marking rubrics.*

4. *GMP materials concerning lawful/proportionate use, the National Decision Model, warnings, red-dotting, discharge, repeated/extended cycles, aftercare, and use of Taser where compliance is sought.*

5. *GMP policy, standard operating procedure, local guidance or aide-memoire for Taser/CED deployment, carriage, authorisation, recording and review.*

6. *Records describing which national College of Policing Taser/CED training package, version, syllabus or learning outcomes GMP currently uses.*

7. *Any GMP guidance or briefing about the College of Policing APP statement that Taser should only be used as a proportionate response to an identified threat and should not be used simply to gain compliance with instructions or procedures where compliance is not linked to such a threat.*

8. *Any equality, human rights, vulnerability, neurodiversity, mental health or age-related training materials specific to GMP Taser/CED use.*

9. *Any GMP policy or guidance on what parts of Taser/CED training materials may be disclosed to the public under FOIA.*

I am not requesting personal data about officers, trainers, members of the public or operational incidents. I am content for names, collar numbers, contact details, operationally sensitive tactical details, and security-sensitive details to be redacted where a specific FOIA exemption is properly engaged.

If any part of the request is refused, please provide all non-exempt material and explain the specific exemption relied upon for each withheld part. If the request exceeds the cost limit, please treat the numbered paragraphs above as separate requests in priority order, beginning with paragraph 1, and provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act so that the request can be refined.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides a right of access to information held by public authorities, subject to exemptions. Section 8 confirms that a request is valid where it is in writing, states the applicant's name and address for correspondence, and describes the information requested. Section 8(2) confirms that an electronic request is to be treated as made in writing where it is received in legible form and capable of being used for subsequent reference.

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 some of 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 information requested in request 1 question 1 is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means.** The information is available on the Facebook post that you included a link to in your request.

The information You have requested in request 2 questions 1-8 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**. Furthermore, the information you have requested in Request 2, questions 1-4 and 6-8 is also exempt under **Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests**.

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.

Section 31 - Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information on training materials and operational guidance used by Police Officers when using Conducted Energy Devices 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 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 training 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 training Police Officers receive regarding the use of Conducted Energy Devices. 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 at force level, it could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder GMP's ability to successfully investigate crimes. The threat of crime will increase as more crimes are committed because of criminals gaining knowledge about the capabilities of the forces. Therefore, the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify different levels of training regarding different officers 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.

Section 43 is a qualified, class-based exemption. There is a requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Section 43 – Factors in Favour of Disclosure

Providing this information would make members of the public more aware of the level of training Police Officers receive regarding the use of Conducted Energy Devices. It will also show accountability and that public funds are being spent appropriately.

Section 43 – Factors Against Disclosure

However, we must also consider the wider impact of disclosing detail about licensed training materials. Releasing this information under the Freedom of Information Act would render the licensing process obsolete, forces would no longer have to obtain the material from the College because it would be publicly accessible to the world-at-large. This means the authors of the training materials would have no control over how the material is used nor would the College of Policing be able to generate income via the licensing process.

Section 43 – 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 risk to the College of Policing's ability to protect its products and commercial revenue streams. 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 for those parts of your request.

The remainder of your request can be answered as follows:

REQUEST 1:

1. Exempt under S21, see above.

2.
    a. Yes
    b. Yes
    c. Yes
    d. No
    e. No
    f. Yes
    g. No

3. Yes

4. Following an NPCC recommendation, all Taser deployments within GMP are reviewed by the team at Taser Training as a matter of course. This incident was reviewed by GMP's Chief Taser Trainer and the Salford district Taser lead. The matter was not originally referred to GMP's Professional Standards Directorate but was later reviewed because of a later submission.

5. No such records have been found within the Professional Standards Directorate. No referral was made to the IOPC.

6. No information held.

7. No information held. There is nothing in the College of Policing Conducted Energy Device APP that would cover the publication of videos.

8. Approved by an Inspector with Chief Superintendent oversight.

REQUEST 2:

No information has been requested.

REQUEST 3:

Questions 1-4 and 6-8 are exempt under Section 31 and 43, see above.

Question 5 is exempt under Section 31, see above.

9. There is no information held specifically relating to Conducted Energy Device training materials. The following is an excerpt from GMP's Freedom of Information Policy and Procedure relating to exempt information in general:

5.4 Step 4: Exemptions to disclosure
Where information has been supplied but concerns about its disclosure have also been provided, the Information Access Unit will consider whether any of the legal exemptions to disclosure provided in Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act are relevant and can be engaged.

*For **qualified exemptions**, a **public interest test** will be required and for some exemptions, an **additional prejudice test**.*

The Information Access Unit will be responsible for conducting the public interest and prejudice tests and will use the information supplied by the business area concerning the sensitivity of the contents as part of this process to review the content of the material.

Where further information is required from the business area for the public interest and prejudice tests, this will be sought without delay and the business area must comply with the request for further assistance as a priority to ensure legislative deadlines can be met.

Where a partial disclosure needs to be made and a proportion of information withheld by an exemption, the Information Access Unit will redact the withheld information and prepare the edited version of material for release.