



Date: 23/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017567/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017567/D

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 the following recorded information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This request is deliberately limited to current, centrally held policies, registers and management information. I am not asking GMP to examine individual personnel files, vetting files, emails, intelligence records, crime reports or investigation files.

No names, ranks, locations, lodge names or other identifying details are requested.

1. Policies and declaration forms

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Please provide copies of the current policy, procedure, guidance and blank declaration form used by GMP for police officers and police staff to declare:

a. notifiable or declarable associations; or b. membership of an organisation which may give rise to an actual or perceived conflict concerning impartiality, professional duties or loyalty.

2. Treatment of Freemasonry

Please provide any current policy wording, instruction, guidance or list which states whether membership of any of the following is required or expected to be declared by GMP officers or police staff:

- a. Freemasonry;*
- b. a Masonic lodge; or*
- c. another Masonic organisation.*

Where this information is contained in a document supplied in response to question 1, it is sufficient to identify the relevant page or section.

3. Central register

Please confirm whether GMP maintains a central register, database, spreadsheet or other centrally searchable record of the declarations described above.

If such a record exists, please state:

a. the GMP business area responsible for maintaining it; b. whether the type or name of the organisation is recorded in a structured or searchable field; and c. whether the record distinguishes between police officers and police staff.

I am not requesting technical security information about the system.

4. Centrally retrievable figures

Only where the central record described in question 3 can be searched using its existing search, reporting or filtering functions, please provide the number of serving:

- a. police officers; and*
- b. police staff*

whose active declaration expressly records "Freemasonry", "Freemason", "Masonic lodge" or "Masonic organisation", as at the date of the search.

Please do not inspect individual personnel or vetting files to answer this question.

If no existing aggregate total is held and the figure cannot be obtained from the central record without opening individual files, please simply confirm that position.

If GMP considers that disclosing an exact figure could identify an individual, please instead provide the figure using the following bands:

- 0*
- 1 to 5*
- 6 to 10*
- 11 to 20*
- 21 or more*

Please provide the documents electronically. Where a document is already publicly available, its exact title and a direct link to it will be sufficient.

If GMP considers that any particular question cannot be answered within the appropriate cost limit, please provide advice under section 16 identifying the particular question concerned and whether omitting or narrowing it would permit the remaining information to be supplied.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in question 4 would involve a manual search of all vetting records to establish whether any such declarations have been made. Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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. For the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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.