Friday, 09 October 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017687/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017687/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

The costs charged to private companies, sports clubs, stadiums, airports, governmental departments and any other body (excluding police forces) for 'Special Police Services' pursuant to section 25 of the Police Act 1996 between April 2025 and April 2026. Please identify the organisation and the total amount charged to them for the services.

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, I am not obliged to provide the information requested as exemption applies.

The exemption which applies is:

Section 43(2) – Commercial Interest

Section 43(2) is a prejudice based and qualified exemption, as such is subject to a harm and public interest test. Please see below.

Harm

Special Police Services (SPS) are delivered via unique, privately negotiated commercial contracts between the Chief Constable and individual private organisations. Disclosing their identifications and costs within these private agreements would reveal commercially sensitive information.

Factors favouring disclosure
Disclosure would provide better understanding, accountability and justification as to how GMP spends public funds.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure
Public authorities must respect the commercial confidentiality of private entities that enter into voluntary agreements. Disclosing granular pricing models harms the trust required between commercial partners and the police.

If private event organisers fear that their commercially sensitive financial configurations will be routinely placed in the public domain, they may be dissuaded from utilising SPS. This could inadvertently result in fewer requested officers at major gatherings, creating downstream public safety risks.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be that there would be a better public understanding of how GMP spends public funds. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which is the disclosure on the specific, cost terms applied to unique private contracts carries a strong likelihood of commercial prejudice. Therefore, the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and withholding the requested information at this time.